



## Club Meetings

The following meetings are 7:30 for 8pm start, but if you wish to eat at the New Inn, please arrange to do so before the meeting.

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April – Film Show

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May – Spring airing / quiz / raffle

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June – Guest speaker -Basingstoke canal

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July - Half gallon run

## NHAEG organised trips / events

Visit to Berkshire Aviation Museum – **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April (details below)**

Drive it Day – **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April**

Visit to Hollycombe steam fair – **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May**

Visit to Rainforest & Brewery – **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June**

Celebration of 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July**

RAF Odiham (contact Trevor M) – **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Aug**

## Public car shows

Farnham Central Car park – **21<sup>st</sup> April**

Mill House North Warnborough – **11<sup>th</sup> May**

Basingstoke Festival of Transport 2024 - **19<sup>th</sup> May.**

Beaulieu Spring Autojumble- **18 – 19<sup>th</sup> May**

Hartley Witney – **8<sup>th</sup> June**

Old Basing carnival – **15<sup>th</sup> June**

Hart Car show, Tweseldown – **23<sup>rd</sup> June**

Beaulieu National Austin Seven Rally - Sunday **30<sup>th</sup> June**,

Thames Traditional boat festival, Fawley Meadows. – **19 – 21<sup>st</sup> July**  
<https://www.tradboatfestival.com>

Phyllis Tuckwell, Churt – Sunday **11<sup>th</sup> August**

Swallowfield – **25 – 26<sup>th</sup> August**

Beaulieu International Autojumble - **14 – 15<sup>th</sup> September**.

## Dave Holland



It is with great sadness that we have to inform members of the death of Dave on 26<sup>th</sup> March after a short illness in hospital. Dave was a long standing member of NHAEG and he will be sorely missed. Our condolences and deepest sympathies go to Hazel and family.

## The Museum of Berkshire Aviation - Woodley

The committee is planning a trip to the museum on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April. Meet at the museum at 11:00. Please call Don B on 01189-733568 for more information. Closing date to book is 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

Berkshire today bears few traces of the historic part that the county has played in the formative years of military and civil aviation in the United Kingdom. Prior to the establishment of the Museum of Berkshire Aviation nothing had been readily available to the general public to identify the County's role in this sphere.

Of the 21 airfields sited in Berkshire during the Second World War, only one is regularly used for flying today. Most of the others have virtually disappeared and their individual histories are fast becoming difficult to trace, even for the dedicated enthusiast. Two of the last remaining airfields, Abingdon and Greenham Common were maintained by the RAF for flying until recent times but have now been closed down.

On the civil side, there is virtually nothing left to identify Woodley airfield which, as the home of Miles Aircraft, played a notable part in the early growth of civil aviation and, during the war years, became a major aircraft manufacturing centre. Many other aircraft manufacturers had links with Berkshire. Vickers-Armstrong Supermarine, for instance, built Spitfires in the heart of Reading and Newbury.

## Pre-war car spring gathering – 11<sup>th</sup> May

### Join us at the Mill House in North Warnborough Hampshire

This year we're gathering on Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup> 2024 in the picturesque setting of North Warnborough's 17<sup>th</sup> Century Mill House. (RG29 1ET) (<http://www.brunningandprice.co.uk/millhouse/homepage/>)

As in previous years, ground conditions permitting we'll have access to the extensive lawn adjacent to the mill pond to display our cars. The Mill House offers a full menu service and bar - further details to follow. For a bit of additional atmosphere we'll have some live music.

Once again we're expecting enthusiastic participation, especially from the local Riley, Austin and Bean car clubs! If you'd like to participate please email Andy Seager ([andyseager@mac.com](mailto:andyseager@mac.com)) and let him know how many people and the type of car you'd like to bring. Once again we'll have access to the Event Barn should the weather prove challenging.

If you represent an area club for pre-war cars please forward this on, together with the contact details below.

We look forward to seeing you there!

[andyseager@mac.com](mailto:andyseager@mac.com) - 07990 546677



## NHAEG The Early Days

In the Spring of 1973 I moved down to North Hampshire leaving behind the Thames Valley Austin 7 Club, which I formed in 1968. (later becoming the Thames Valley Centre A7OC). Ian Clayton had also moved down from the Thames Valley and we decided to see if there was sufficient interest in a local Austin club in North Hampshire.

In October 1973 myself and Ian decided to meet at The Jolly Farmer, Cliddesden and advertise for local Austin enthusiasts to join us. The first 2 months were very quiet with only the barmaid joining us for a cosy chat. All very nice but she did not own an Austin. Eventually Tom Bell appeared with his 1934 Box Saloon and we had our first member.

In early 1974 it was agreed a more suitable pub and location were required and Ian found the White Hart at Sherfield on Loddon. The Landlord Ron Brown was happy for us to use the restaurant as our club room on Monday evenings when food was not served. Also, we were free to use the pub car park for driving tests outside of opening hours. The pub was much better located on the A33 and attendance suddenly blossomed.

It was now time to be more formal with a committee and other organisational bits and bobs. We did not want to be too formal with membership fees so decided meetings were open to members of the A7OC, ATDC, VAR and 750MC. Attendees were expected to pay a subscription to the relevant club. Any funds needed would be obtained by passing a beer mug round. We chose a name which would not link us to any particular club although from the start we were recognized as an A7OC Centre. Several very interesting presentations were held over the first Winter thanks to contacts amongst our members. One in particular I remember was Dudley Gahagan who entertained us one evening with his Brooklands exploits.

Our first road event named the Spring Rally, took place in May 1975 commencing with a driving test in the White Hart car park. Having completed the tests entrants then set off on the road section. This took them out along various country lanes searching for answers to clues ending up at Combe Gibbet near Inkpen. The 1976 Spring Rally was organized by the infamous Tom Bell and is remembered for being rather more adventurous. It started with the usual driving tests before entrants set off little knowing what was ahead. Tom had managed to plot a route down to the Meon Valley mainly on green roads. The route even included a very long disused railway tunnel where on entering you could not see the other end. Whether we had permission to go through the tunnel is not known but permission was not one of Tom's strong points. Both these events still survive on film and hopefully will be shown at the April club night.

Another new event was the Night Jar. This was the brainchild of the late Don Biggs who wanted to base it on an event held by The United Hospitals and University of London Motor Club (UHULMC). The event was now defunct but ran through the 1950/60s and Don remembered it being great fun. A working party was formed to support Don and the first event held in November 1975. The event was unique in that it was not just another Scatter Rally but had the

added difficulty and fun of being timed whilst searching for code boards. Having located the check point marshal you were given a map reference and were timed on returning with the correct bird name. It was always held on the November Saturday with the least moonlight to aid difficulty. There are many stories of competitors falling in muddy ditches and code boards in the most unexpected places. There were also decoy code boards to catch you out if your plotting was not spot on. A great event with a format which made it far more than just another scatter. It is good to see it still continues in memory of dear old Don.

Other events dreamt up included the Half Gallon Run created by Simon Colledge held during a Summer club night. I still have one of the mugs to commemorate the event made by Simon's Mother. Another clever idea for a club night took place in the bus turning circle just past the White Hart on the old Reading Road. It was a sort of fun economy run. A measured container of petrol was connected to your carb inlet and you had to do as many circuits of the bus turning circle as possible.

All great fun in those days before too many regulations and permissions came into play. Ian is now living way down South in a remote part of Ireland and was involved in setting up the Irish Austin Seven Club. We last met when he attended the Austin 7 Centenary in 2022. I am still plodding on and last year celebrated 60 years since attending my first Beaulieu Rally.

Gordon Puzey





## Celebration of 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NHAEG

### Please note change of date – now 14<sup>th</sup> July

It is now 50 years since the 3 founder members of the Club decided to meet once a month to share their interest in the AUSTIN 7. For that reason the Committee have decided to celebrate the 50th Anniversary and we are in the throes of organising a 3 course lunch to celebrate on Sunday 14th July, arriving at 12pm to sit down for lunch at 1.00pm.

However, after extensive research the venue has now been changed and will instead be at:

North Hants Golf Club::  
Minley Road  
Fleet  
GU51 1RF

01252-616443

[www.northhantsgolf.co.uk](http://www.northhantsgolf.co.uk)

Those members that have paid their deposit will shortly receive by letter a copy of the menu for you to select your lunch choice.

Stay safe

NHAEG Committee