



## Club Meetings

The next club meeting will be **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February** at the New Inn @ 12 noon.

## 2024 Events

Classic car & restoration show – **22-24<sup>th</sup> March**, NEC Birmingham

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

Basingstoke Festival of Transport 2024, War Memorial Park. Basingstoke. RG21 4AG.  
**19<sup>th</sup> May**. All bookings to be made via Trevor Mulford [trevormulford1942@gmail.com](mailto:trevormulford1942@gmail.com)

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

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

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

Celebration of 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – **7<sup>th</sup> July**

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**.

## Club events

Approximately 22 people returned the list of proposed club events. Among the most popular trips were:

- Woodley Air museum
- Churchills Wartime Bunker
- Wisley Gardens
- Austin Morris day @ Brooklands
- Evening boat trip on the Thames with meal

Living Rainforest & West Berks brewery,  
Hollocombe steam fair  
John & Jill Bennett French trip in 2025

(Two events are no longer available and had to be withdrawn i.e. Farnborough airfield and the Breakspear brewery.)

We will not be able to fit all of these in during the summer, so a short list will be drawn up and circulated when further planning has been completed. After the arrangements for a trip have been finalised, an invitation will be sent out to all club members approximately 1 month before the event date. This will be the final cut off for those wishing to attend.

## **Drive it Day**

A provisional booking for Sunday Lunch at The Crown & Cushion has been made for 24 people in the Mead Hall. There will be a short run about 20 miles to reach the pub, possibly starting at Conkers Garden Centre. but to be confirmed. Those interested please inform Alan Pickett at the next club meeting.

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

I know many of you may not realise but 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. I myself cannot believe that it is 50 years!

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 at The Basingstoke Country Hotel, Hook on Sunday 7th July, arriving at 12pm to sit down for lunch at 1.00pm.

We apologise that the date is so far in advance, but I am sure you can appreciate that these events have to be booked and finalised well before the 7th July. The cost of the 3 course meal will be £30.00 per head. A £10 deposit per person will be required by Thursday 29th February, which will be the closing date.

Ideally we are hoping that at least 30 members will respond by booking in with Don B and sending £10 deposit per person to him. Cheques should be made payable to NHAEG and sent to 4 Buchanan Drive, Finchampstead, Wokingham, Berks, RG40 4EF.

On receipt of your deposit we will forward a copy of the menu for you to select your lunch choice.

## **AGM**

The AGM previously planned for January has been cancelled. A new date will be circulated when our Chairman has fully recovered from his operation.

## **2024 Membership**

At the end of January 2024, there were 39 paid up members and about 30 registered family members, so a big thank you to everyone for your continued support !

## **Health & Wellbeing**

John Minty was unlucky enough just after Christmas to suffer a fall and break his pelvis. He has now been screwed back together and is receiving physiotherapy. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Meanwhile Andrew Lambden has unfortunately been told that he needs a heart operation and is undergoing tests. However, by the time you read this he may have had the operation and we look forward to seeing him back again as Chairman.

We also understand the Nick Buchanan is now receiving full time care following a mini stroke and send our kindest regards to Pat in this difficult time.

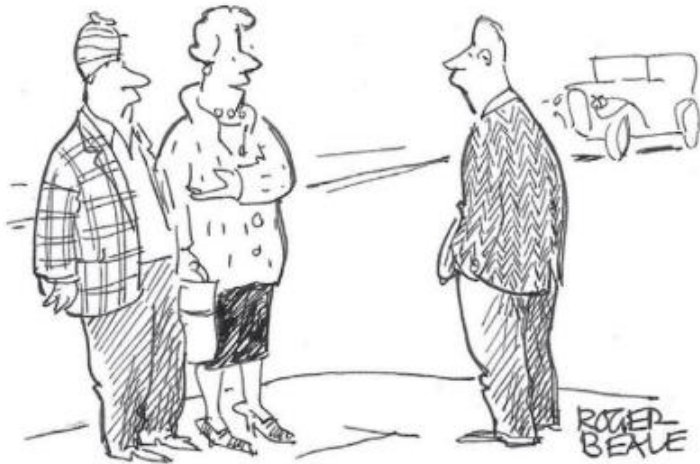
## **Austin's Office gets new home**

The British Motor Museum in Gaydon has announced a number of new projects, one of which will tell the story of two of the most influential characters in Britain's motor industry – Herbert Austin and William Morris. In conjunction with MG Motor UK, Lord Austin's office has been carefully dismantled from inside the factory at Longbridge and transported to Gaydon. Thanks to new funding, it will be reconstructed in a new exhibition alongside the office of William Morris which has been displayed in the museum since 1994, having been relocated from Cowley. Together they offer an unrivalled opportunity for the public to connect with the stories of Austin and Morris and to understand the impact that both men had, and continue to have, on the motor industry in Britain and beyond.

More information on the new exhibition including opening dates will be announced soon. For more information about the British Motor Museum visit the website at:

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

HE SLIPPED INTO HIS AFTERNOON NAP WHILE GREASING THE PROPSHAFT AND SAT UP TOO QUICKLY WHEN I CALLED HIS SMARTPHONE



## Blackbushe Red Wheel award

Ref recent ceremony of the Blackbushe Red Wheel award and mention of Airwork:

I remember travelling by Airwork to Khartoum and back as a child in the early 1950s from Blackbushe. They flew a Vickers Viking aeroplane. Flight crew of two and one hostess - as they were called in those days, because they really were a host (female) on a two day journey - with about 30 passengers in reasonable comfort. We took off promptly in the morning, landed at Nice and got out for lunch (and a refuel of the plane). We reached Malta in the late afternoon and stayed overnight in the Grand Hotel. Next day we stopped for lunch (and another refuel) at Wadi Halfa near the Sudanese border with Egypt before arriving after dark in Khartoum. Wadi Halfa was hot and dusty with not much happening to occupy a child beyond a box pit with lizards and chameleon.

On one of my returns to UK we flew in a larger flying boat and my memories include the Egyptian Gully Gully man (magician) in the waiting room. Only time I have seen a woman lying balanced on pointed swords - Don't think he cut her in half. As the flying boat took off I saw the water from the wake rising above the port hole windows and I let everyone know I was disturbed!

The Vickers Viking, a streamlined two engine unpressurised tub with tail wheel, was able to keep flying with one engine out, which comforted my parents as we flew at c.200mph over sea and desert and there had been 3 accidents with similar aircraft between 1952 and 1954, the first

off Sicily with fatalities.

163 civilian Vikings were built at Brooklands between 1945 and 1954. Like my Rover P3 (1948/9) it was infill machine while Vickers were developing the next generation, the larger turboprop Viscount. Many parts were taken from the Wellington bomber, with a new metal fuselage and fabric covered wings and tail. It was short range at 1,700 miles with two Bristol Hercules radial piston engines producing 1,680 hp each and a cruise speed of 210 mph.

After the war the military airstrip became Blackbushe civil airport until 1960 when it was closed in favour of Gatwick.

Airwork was founded in 1928 and played a significant role supporting the RAF with training, mechanical works, maintenance and troop movements. It developed air services across the then Empire with particular emphasis on Africa. By 1960 it had merged with Hunting-Clan, then became British United Airways before being subsumed by Bombardier in 1993.

Wynn K

## Road runs and Technology

As everyone will know, planning a road run takes a lot of time and effort :

- Studying the OS maps to find minor roads
- Writing down directions prior to driving the route
- Driving the route with a companion who records details and distance between junctions
- Producing the Tulip diagrams
- Re run of the route using the Tulip diagrams
- Updating the Tulip diagrams and distributing them to club members.

So, is there an easier way using digital technology and mobile apps ?

Smartphone mapping often uses GPX files for recording routes, and there are a number of map creation tools on either Android or IOS.

For example Myrouteapp.com can be used on a Windows laptop and the route planned by adding waypoints to the map displayed and then saved as a GPX file.

Alternatively if the myroute-app is installed on a smartphone the route can be recorded whilst driving.

The saved GPX file is then emailed to members wishing to take part in the run. They simply click on the file which can be opened in for example GPX Viewer / Beeline or Kurviger. These will show the route and directions although some features such as voice instructions and distances for each turn require a subscription. If anyone knows of a suitable app that provides voice guidance without a subscription please let me know.

In theory this is all straightforward, but many apps are not intuitive, so some research will be required to find the one that best suits you and your needs. Obviously this applies primarily to those planning the route and a pre-drive is still a good idea !

Stay safe  
NHAEG Committee