

NORTH HAMPSHIRE AUSTIN ENTHUSIASTS' GROUP

Founded 1974

Monthly Newsletter and Events Update

Editor (stand-in)

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Please let Maureen Breakspear have any articles for the February Newsletter by the 22nd January, in WORD format and as an email attachment.

www.nhaeg.org.uk

JANUARY 2012

Club Nights at the 'New Inn', Heckfield – 8 p.m., 2nd Monday in every month

Secretary (cum Editor's) Scriblings

First of all, a Happy New Year to all, although, on reflection, this could reach you before all the Christmas festivities are fully over so, if this is the case, hope you're having a Merry one!

As was previously announced, Maureen, during her absence in warmer climes, had entrusted me to put together the first newsletter of 2012. Subsequently I'd requested that any articles, etc., intended for publication be forwarded to me by mid-December, in order for a reasonable attempt to be made to put something together before the inevitable festivities were suddenly upon us all.

Well - that was the plan but, as the saying goes, the best ones quite often go astray – which they surely did in this instance. PC problems, which had been bubbling up more or less continuously since mid-year, reached a peak, in early December, to such an extent that it became necessary to place it in the hands of a professional 'fixer'. Despite much effort, it became apparent that the venerable (i.e. 8-years old) equipment was terminally sick and beyond saving and is now, sadly, destined for the scrap heap. Fortunately though, I'm indebted to Nick (Buchanan) who has kindly loaned me his 'reserve' laptop which, pending the acquisition of suitable replacement hardware, is at least permitting me to remain in electronic communication and is also the medium through which this newsletter is able to be drafted.

Inevitably, a number of hurdles have been encountered, however, not least amongst them being a frustrating difficulty in handling and insertion of graphics, images etc. As a result and quite inappropriately at this particular time of the year this edition is a fairly lacklustre, sombre and 'wordy' one, necessarily short on colour, images – and length! I apologise in advance for all this but considered it preferable to publish *something*, rather than *nothing*, until 'normal service' can be resumed.

Anyway it's sincerely hoped that everyone had (or possibly even are still having) a great Christmas and are looking forward to a fresh New Year.

Recent happenings:

On the 27th November Wokingham held its Winter Carnival. This is a quite splendid affair when the entire town centre is closed to normal traffic and turned over to an impressive number and variety of decorated stalls rather reminiscent of a continental Christmas market. Several groups of Morris Dancers and other street performers were greatly in evidence and there were also a number of Fairground type attractions including, this year, a huge Ferris Wheel from the top of which it was possible to see over all surrounding roof tops and far beyond. The weather, though a little chilly, was fine and sunny a fact which was greatly appreciated since the afternoon concluded with a procession doing a circuit of the town, in which Peter and Pauline (Barlow) in their *Box 7*, plus Jean and I, (plus a couple of wrapped up granddaughters) in our open-topped *Colwyn*, took part. It was a bit surprising, however and little disappointing that more NHAEG members didn't turn up; they certainly missed out on a very pleasant day out - with a difference.

The Club Christmas Dinner went off well on the 5th December. This was the third time we've held the function at the Downshire Golf Complex, near Wokingham and, as on previous occasions, we certainly were not disappointed. The food, service and ambience are really quite difficult to match. Sometimes, on such occasions, comments heard afterwards run something along the lines of "*It was good, but.....*". In this case there just doesn't seem to be any '*but's*', so, on this basis and following the maxim, '*If it ain't broke, don't fix it*', December 3rd has been booked for next year's Christmas Dinner - at the same place. *Make a note!*

Just a couple of days or so later, several of us embarked on a trip down to deepest Hampshire, to Hoburn Bashley, in the 'darkest' part of the New Forest, by coach, to enjoy a seasonal performance put on by the Olde Tyme Players. This was sandwiched between Christmas lunch and an afternoon cream tea - for those able to cope with yet more food! Once again everything made for an excellent day out and all those who participated seemed to feel it contained all the ingredients for an appropriate start to the festive season.

The Festive Fun Night, Club Night on December 12th, as Colin and John also mention elsewhere, was largely given over to a Bingo Evening, interspersed with a couple of readings (one humorous and one thought-provoking) provided by Jean (Edwards) and Ann (Greig) respectively. John (Chad) performed professionally in his role of Caller and a big thanks go to all of them for their contributions towards making this a most entertaining evening, which fully lived up to its prior publicity.

Other issues:

2012 Committee Nominations.

In December's Newsletter a form was included to be used when nominating someone to serve on the 2012 Committee. To assist further a shorter version is also included in this edition.

Please use this if you wish to nominate someone – perhaps even yourself - for the next committee. Please note, especially, that places for two Committee Members *will* definitely be vacant on this occasion, but, of course, nominations for *any* position, Officer or Member, remains, as always, an option.

Importantly, however, always remember to ensure that the person being nominated is aware of and in agreement to the nomination being made and that such nomination is seconded also.

Annual Group Trophy Award

At the AGM you will also be invited to nominate the person who, in your opinion, has provided outstandingly good service, in the interests of the group, over the preceding twelve months. So, in the interim, please do give this some consideration and be prepared to cast your vote accordingly then. The trophy will be presented during the evening, to the individual receiving the most votes.

'Guess What It Is' – March Club Night

Mystery items are still being sought for this evening. Anything you possess, the purpose of, or use for which, is less than obvious would be gratefully received (and returned naturally, in due course!), by Phil (Dunford) who is coordinating everything. He may be contacted on 01252 716387 or via email at

phildunford@dunfords.co.uk

Please take a look through your possessions and if you think you have something which qualifies do let Phil know.

Annual Group Donation

A third and final issue which needs to be covered at the AGM is the one concerning the charity to which we shall make a donation derived from a percentage of any excess income over expenditure arising from the 'Nightjar' Rally, staged in November. As is now the tradition, all members are invited to nominate a *small, local (to them) charity*, in which they have a particular interest or have affection and which would benefit from a fairly modest donation. This, as opposed to one of the very large, national charities for which the sort of sum, (i.e. £100.00 or so), likely to be donated might not have such a meaningful significance.

So, if you know of a charity which might qualify and which is dear to your heart why not submit the details to me so the name can be 'put into the hat' for the draw to be made on January 9th?

Please include name and address of charity or cause, plus the name and (if possible) phone number of an appropriate contact person within the organisation and forward these to me at trevor_c.edwards@btinternet.com or, via 'snail mail' to 55 The Brambles, Crowthornhe. Berks. RG45 6EF.
Please ensure you submit these to reach me **by Tuesday 3rd January 2012.**

A7CA (buff, formerly grey) quarterly magazines

It will shortly be time for me to place an order for the next twelve months, for the A7CA magazines which I acquire on behalf of those half dozen or so members who do not receive one via any other source.

The exact cost is not known at this time but will be advised when it is – last year the cost was £5.50 inclusive, for the four editions.
In the meantime would those members who would like to continue, or perhaps start receiving one, when they become due, please confirm this to me soonest?

Chairmans Corner.

December turned out to be a busy time, firstly we had the Christmas meal at the Downshire golf club which was well attended and as far as I know enjoyed by all our thanks must go to Jean and Trevor for organising it all well done.

Next came the trip to the New Forest to see the Old Thyme Music Hall show I did not go myself but I understand it was a success again many thanks to Jean for arranging the trip.

The club night was an opportunity for you to wear silly hats and or get dressed up in the Christmas spirit. A prize was awarded to the best dressed lady and gentleman and these were won by Ruth and Colin so congratulations to them. It was my pleasure to host the games of Bingo which I hope were enjoyed by all.

All that remains is for me to wish you and your families a Very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

John

COLINS COMMENTS

Not a lot happening for our cars in December but we have enjoyed an excellent **Christmas Dinner** organised by Trevor and Jean and a coach trip to the New Forest to see the **Old Tyme Christmas Players**, a lot of fun, organised by Jean. We had a great club night playing **Bingo** with John C. as the caller. I don't think serious bingo players would have approved with all the laughter and banter going on but it was a lot of fun. We played three games and there was a box of chocolates for one line and a bottle of wine for a full house. Many thanks to Trevor, Jean and John.

There is not a lot happening in January but if you want to give your car a run on **New Years Day**, why not join Andy Seager for a run to **Brooklands** where there will be a big gathering of cars. If you wish to join Andy and other club members give him a ring on 01256 702886 for details of the run. You can see details of the day at www.brooklandsmuseum.com

Also in January on the 29th are the **VSCC Driving Tests at Brooklands**, well worth going to watch. See vintage cars in action including plenty of Austin 7's also some more exotic makes such as Bugatti, Bentley, Riley, Sunbeam and many others, always a very good day. Details can be found on the Brooklands web site above.

A Happy New Year to you all, let's hope the weather is kind for all our runs and events in 2012.

Safe and Happy Motoring.

Colin.

The following snippet has been helpfully submitted by Phil (Dunford) and may certainly be of interest to those owning vehicles which would be affected by the impending change in MOT tests.

MOT changes

As an aside to the proposals to exempt pre-war cars from MOTS, I learned last week of another change, coming in next year, which will affect older modern cars. My MOT station have told me that any warning light illuminated will result in a fail. The message is that as cars get older you cannot ignore a tyre pressure or seat belt warning light, even if you've established that it's a false indication.

Last, but by no means least, please don't forget to turn up at the next Club Night - the AGM on Monday 9th January - when it will be your chance to have a say in who will be running things for the next twelve months as well as being updated on the current state of the Club's finances.

See you then!

Trevor

P.S. Many thanks to Colin (Greig), to whom this Newsletter is forwarded, for his assistance in circulating it to all 'emailable' members!

An announcement from Jean (Edwards)

"WARHORSE"

A number of members had recently expressed interest in joining a party, in February, to go to see 'Warhorse', the much-celebrated show being staged at the New London Theatre.

Unfortunately, due to its huge popularity, all seats had been taken when further enquiries were made with Travallen Travel, the coach company concerned.

However, I've just been advised that a further trip is now planned for later in the year and eleven members have already 'signed up' for this. The date is Tuesday 26th June 2012, (the next available date!), and the cost is £63.50, inclusive of coach travel (from Yateley), stalls theatre seats, booking fee and the services of an Event Manager throughout. Please note that payment is required by 25th January and a cheque for the requisite amount should be forwarded to me by that date. The coach will leave the usual place in Aylesham Way, Yateley at approximately 4:00 p.m., (exact timing to be advised later), for the 7:00 p.m. performance and should be arriving back in Yateley at about 11:45 p.m.

Please note, however, if there are any other members who would like to take advantage of this opportunity could you please contact me soonest.

Having seen the show myself I can thoroughly recommend it; it truly is a unique and thoroughly memorable production.

Jean (01344 775012)

55 The Brambles, Crowthorne. RG45 6EF

P.S. Gentle Reminder! Re: Warwick Trip – July 2012

If you haven't yet paid into your bank your £50.00 refund it would be appreciated if you would do this before the end of the financial (i.e. calendar year).

Many thanks!

NHAEG 2012 Committee – Nomination Form

The following NHAEG member(s) is/are nominated to serve on the NHAEG Committee for 2012, in the position(s) indicated. If appropriate, voting by ballot to take place at the AGM being held on Monday 9th January 2012.

N.B. More than one nomination is permitted.

Nomination.....Position.....

Seconded by.....

Nomination.....Position.....

Seconded by.....

Nomination.....Position.....

Seconded by.....

Nomination.....Position.....

Seconded by.....

Nomination.....Position.....

Seconded by.....

Nomination.....Position.....

Seconded by.....

Proposed by.....

Print name.....

Date.....

Please return form to Trevor Edwards (Sec), 55 The Brambles, Crowthorne. RG45 6EF
email: trevor_c.edwards@btinternet.com **by Friday 6th January 2012 at the latest.**