



## Club Meetings

**12<sup>th</sup> Jan** - New Inn @ 1pm but please arrive earlier if you wish to have a meal.

## Public Car Shows

21<sup>st</sup> June – Hart Classic Car show at The Elvetham in aid of Air Ambulance

2<sup>nd</sup> Aug – Phyllis Tuckwell Motor Show, Churt

## Christmas Lunch

36 guests arrived for the lunch on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December at the Elvetham Hall hotel. All had a great time, but not as good as the report from the Christmas lunch in 1980 ( see below).





## **NORTH HANTS CHRISTMAS DINNER AND DANCE.... 29th NOVEMBER 1980**

Good food, friends, pleasant surroundings, sweet music and a glass of favourite wine, added together make for a memorable evening; which was how I would describe the NHAEG Christmas dinner and dance at the Lismoyne Hotel on 29th Nov. This event in past years was the ladies night out, but yes it was lovely to have you with us lads. Of course it did not stop Don Breakspear's mum proposing to the waiter; and Don made eyes at the waitress who rewarded him with two helpings of trifle and cream. Keith tells me he managed two helpings of boiled and roast potatoes by finishing his before the rest of the table had been served; this gourmet behaviour may have accounted for his failure to dance the paso doble. (If anyone wishes to know how it should be done, watch "Come dancing" on Thurs TV.) The hotel band seemed to play all the tunes in one tempo; but as all the dancers did their own steps to whatever the dance was anyway, everyone was happy, and the music was not too loud that you could not talk over it at the table. Talk what about ? Well with the lads there it did include the odd hint of engines from time to time. A raffle; organised by Bryan and Shirley (busy pair or should we say three?) was won by Don Breakspear with raffle ticket 100, 2nd prize won by Marion Farrow, of course the cloakroom tickets were the same colour, but I don't think anyone won a mink coat. Thank you Sylvia for organising this Christmas event in Nov, (well it come earlier each year).

Bobbie Singer

## 2026 Membership Fees

A big thank you to all our members that have renewed their membership. However, there are still some payments outstanding. If you are not renewing for 2026 we are sorry to see you leave but please let me know so that I can update the membership records.

The preferred method of payment is by bank transfer.

Sort code    09-01-54  
Account     8006 6086  
Reference    SUBS & your surname

Please ensure payment is made by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 otherwise an additional joining fee of £5 will be required.

**Please** also copy [nhaegmembership@gmail.com](mailto:nhaegmembership@gmail.com) to let me know you have paid !

## Antifreeze Confusion

Although we have had previous articles on antifreeze, the following adds a bit more information

Statistically half of you should be involved in the bi-annual chore of changing and disposing of antifreeze (Do not pour it down the drain, it is very poisonous and does not degrade). The reason this needs to be done is that the anti-corrosion additives degrade, the anti freeze still works, but it will corrode your cooling system.

Over the years the anti-corrosion additives in antifreeze have changed. Manufacturers have quietly moved from Inorganic Additive Technology (IAT - safe in our cars) to Organic Acid Technology (OAT - not safe in our cars) in an effort to extend the service life of anti freeze. The problem is that OAT attacks lead based products (i.e. the solder in an older radiator) and silicon compounds in hoses and gasket sealants. Traditionally IAT antifreeze was coloured Blue in the UK and green in the USA. When OAT was introduced it was coloured Orange or Red. Now it appears this is not always the case, OAT can be coloured red, orange, green, pink and BLUE ! So colour is no longer a safe guide to the type of additive used. A label stating suitable for old cars is no good either – old in this context means around 10 years. So:

- Do not use OAT antifreeze in classic / historic vehicles
- Do not rely on colour to select your antifreeze
- Do not rely on the label stating it surpasses BS 6580.
- If IAT is not stated on the product label, contact the manufacturer before use.

There is an alternative to conventional ethylene glycol (EG) antifreeze: Propylene glycol (PG) can be used.

### **Characteristics of Ethylene Glycol:**

- It is sweet tasting and very toxic. As little as 30 ml of ethylene glycol can be fatal in adults, 4ml

kills cats.

- It damages paint.
- 0.5% to 1% in the oil causes rapid main bearing failure.

### **Characteristics of Propylene Glycol:**

- It is not toxic (will not damage paint) and is bio-degradable.
- It has a bitter taste that makes it less attractive of curious animals
- It does not break down into corrosive elements and can be used for many years retaining excellent aluminium protection and preventing lime scaling.
- Heat transfer efficiency of PG is superior to EG.
- Engines have run safely with 8% PG in the oil.

So why hasn't PG been used for antifreeze. The answer is cost! However, environmental concerns have led to an increasing use of PG with consequent price falls. PG has been used for some years in domestic central heating systems for safety reasons, so PG is easily sourced. It costs more but does not have to be changed every two years, so the actual cost over a few years is less.

Fernox manufacture a propylene glycol product , Fernox Alphi 11, which is suitable for all wet systems combining steel, cast iron, brass and aluminium. The corrosion prevention properties substantially surpass BS 6580 which makes it suitable for automotive use. Internet searches show that many car enthusiasts have used Alphi 11 for years with no ill effect.

The concentration must be over 25% for the corrosion additives to be effective, 33% gives protection down to -17 C. Over six years Fernox works out cheaper plus you won't have the hassle of changing and disposing of your antifreeze.

A conventional antifreeze tester won't work with Fernox. Instead put a sample in the freezer, to check antifreeze properties, and a PH meter costing under £10 will check the anti-corrosion properties.

## **The Vacuum Gauge**

Although many diagnostics today rely almost entirely on a scan tool, the engine vacuum test with a vacuum gauge remains one of the most direct and revealing tools for assessing the engine's actual mechanical condition without disassembly. In an engine in optimal condition, the idle vacuum should remain stable between 17 and 22 in Hg at sea level, with the needle steady, without vibrations or sudden drops. A low and stable vacuum usually indicates leaks in the intake system, incorrect timing, or general engine wear, while a trembling needle reveals sealing problems in valves or seats, or ignition issues.

Correct interpretation is key: when accelerating rapidly, the vacuum should drop sharply and recover immediately; if the recovery is slow, there is usually a restriction in the exhaust, especially in the catalytic converter. If the vacuum rises and falls slowly at idle, it is usually associated with an unstable mixture or intermittent misfires. When the vacuum fluctuates irregularly at constant RPM, it points directly to faulty valves, worn valve springs, or incorrect valve timing. This test allows you to "read" what's happening inside the engine in seconds.

# Engine vacuum



## Club events

Your feedback is important to the success of the NHAEG club. The committee therefore wants your ideas for club activities. Please forward suggestions to [nhaegmembership@gmail.com](mailto:nhaegmembership@gmail.com)

One option is to arrange for a guest speaker – but what kind of subject would you like a talk on ?

## AGM

The AGM has now been postponed until the spring when club meetings will be held in the evening. This will give all committee members the opportunity to attend ( one is still in active employment) and hopefully more club members will also be able to attend.

Several members of the current committee have served at least 3 years in post, and in accordance with the club rules they will stand down at the next AGM, although they may also be eligible for re-election if he/she wishes.

We would like to encourage others to take on some of these roles and bring new ideas to the club. This is your opportunity to make a difference and bring about change !

The role of Treasurer will be coming available, so if you wish to take on this role (or any other) please request a nomination form from the secretary. Duties of each role are outlined in the club rules.

Happy New Year to all our readers !

Stay safe  
NHAEG Committee