

NORTH HAMPSHIRE *AUSTIN* ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

Founded 1973

Monthly Newsletter and Events Update

www.nhaeg.org.uk

JULY 2008

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

Mo's Mutterings

Don and I seem to have been away or out a lot this last few weeks which is very enjoyable at the time but the jobs at home and the paperwork seem to mount up more and more. As Don says later, we had a great trip to Normandy again, many thanks to Karen and Dave for inviting us. See below the line-up taken from the top of the hotel by Nick Buchanan and some of us relaxing inside the hotel in France.



I can't believe that our Chummy travelled around the French roads and back again with no problems at all and yet we couldn't make it to Guildford last week without the head gasket blowing up in the modern! What a pain and a very expensive one at that!

I hope Queenie, our 12/4, is in a good mood this week as she is transporting the bride and entourage from Reading to Sonning and back to Heckfield on Saturday, when the son of some very old friends of ours gets married. Queenie did sulk a bit because we didn't take her to France but she did manage the Half-Gallon Run.

Several club members went along to the New Inn on the evening of Monday 23rd June, where Andy Seager and his lovely son, Jon, answered numerous IT queries for us. I found this extremely helpful as I still have so much to learn. Many thanks to both Andy and Jon for giving their precious time to help us all.



This is what Austineering is all about, is it? Pauline and Peter Barlow caught in the act by Andy Seager at Longleat on the Bristol Austin Rally, in which Andy picked up an award for his Tourer – best in class! Well done, Andy!

Maureen

Colin's Column

Considering the general wet weather we experienced in June we were very lucky to have a glorious evening for the Half Gallon Run, which this year was organised by Tony and Pat (Westhall). With 19 cars and 42 members we had an excellent turnout, it's amazing what a spot of sunshine will do.

Tony and Pat made a break from the usual format of the Half Gallon Run by giving us a very attractive route of about 10 miles finishing up at a car park beside the Basingstoke canal in Odiham where we parked the cars and then foraged around for various items having worked out what they were from some very cryptic clues we had been given. Having found as many of the items that we could we then set off on an equally attractive route back to the New Inn where we handed our boxes of items to Tony and Pat for marking. .

With everyone back and the points counted Tony announced the winners who were Dave and Karen (Witton). They received the Half Gallon Trophy to keep until next year and also a bottle of wine, well done Dave and Karen.

A very enjoyable evening, many thanks to Tony and Pat for organising it. On Monday 23rd June, Andy Seager and his son Jon organised a Computer Help evening in the conference room at the New Inn, which Tim and June had kindly let us use. I am sure that everyone learnt a lot more about their computers and would want me to thank Andy and Jon for organising a very interesting and informative evening. Jon very bravely gave us all his email address and said we can contact him whenever we have a problem with our computers, many thanks Jon.

As an added bonus at the end of the evening Andy gave us a demonstration in the car park of his radio-controlled helicopter. Thankfully he very skilfully kept it under control and no one received an impromptu haircut.

At the July meeting we will have our annual Concourse d' Elegance with a Trophy and bottle of wine for the best car overall, and also the best Austin 7. There will also be a bottle of wine for the Landlords/Landladies choice. All vehicles made before 1973 qualify. As always the voting will done by you the members, so come along and join in the fun.

I would like to thank all those members who have generously donated prizes to our raffles; your generosity is very much appreciated. The raffle is the clubs main source of income so if you have anything suitable, unwanted gifts etc. then please let Ann have them. Please note that they must be new and in good condition. Many thanks.

As I write this there is a busy weekend ahead. The BEN run is on the Saturday which I believe quite a few of our members are attending and on the Sunday there is the Brooklands Motoring Festival, Tony Westhalls Mid-Summer Meander and the national Austin 7 Rally at Beaulieu, hopefully the weather will be kind to us on both days.

Safe and happy motoring,

Colin.

Secretary's Scribblings

BEN (update)

As mentioned last month, a decision previously had been made, in response to a request received from Eamonn Galligan, (volunteer supporter of the BEN Retirement Home, Lynwood, Sunningdale), for a small levy to be placed on those taking part in our recent Half-Gallon Run, to form part of a donation to that organisation. In the event, the sum of £32.00 was derived from this levy, plus the

proceeds of the raffle (£44.00) that evening were included making a total of £76.00 to which the committee agreed to add a further £24.00 resulting in a grand total of £100.00.

A cheque for this amount will be handed over, on behalf of all NHAEG members, to BEN on the occasion of the Paul Finn Memorial Run (commonly known simply as 'The BEN Run') and Lynwood Fete on Saturday 28th June.

Thank you to everyone who made this donation possible. It is certain to be greatly appreciated and put to some good use.

Incidentally, on this topic, an e-mail also has been received from Adam Hanrahan, (National Volunteers Co-Ordinator for BEN), the text of which is reproduced below in its entirety:

" Hi Trevor,

Thank you so much for kindly looking to raise funds for BEN. We are truly grateful to the support of the car clubs and we only wish that we were closer linked with each UK club.

There are also a number of other ways in which your club could support BEN. Volunteering, for example, is one possibility for your members to show their support for BEN, with giving money. BEN has numerous volunteering opportunities including becoming a welfare visitor, giving payroll presentations at local companies and fundraising at local automotive events.

We have the British International Motor Show coming up 22 July – 03 August and we need 30 volunteers per day to help support our stand. Any support your club could provide BEN with publicising this volunteering opportunity on your web-site or in your Newsletter, would be gratefully received. Please find our volunteer poster for the Motor Show attached, in case you can promote it.

Volunteering activities at the Motor Show include selling national car and motorcycle draw tickets to the general public, doing donation bucket collections and raising general awareness of BEN. We provide all volunteers with lunch/ refreshments and a BEN polo shirt and reimburse all volunteers' expenses. Volunteers will also get to see the British International Motor Show for free!

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the motor Show or volunteering in general.

On another note, I would be delighted to invite you to Lynwood to see some of the work we do first hand, or to discuss ideas for future support. If you would be interested in meeting and have some dates in mind, please let me know and we'll get something in the diary.

Please pass on our sincere thanks to all at the North Hampshire Austin Enthusiasts Group.

Kind regards,

Adam Hanrahan National Volunteers Co-ordinator (1344 294719)

Clearly, if any of our members is interested in any of the content of Adam's letter, please get back to me, or alternatively, contact him directly on the number given.

Finchampstead Fete 2008

This was also announced in the last Newsletter when members were reminded that the NHAEG has been associated with running the Historic Vehicle Pageant/Display, for a number of years now and an open invitation was extended to all members, as well as the event having been publicised elsewhere, to attend this typical English Summer event to show off their treasured pieces of ancient transport.

To date, it has to be reported, the response has been rather disappointing and less than a dozen, from all those contacted, have got back to me indicating an interest, when, in the past 60 or more have done so. Clearly, unless there is a last minute 'rush', there is a distinct possibility of having to cancel this particular element of the Fete, which would, of course, be a great pity.

So, if you are still weighing up your options for the date of the event (Saturday 12th July) which is getting very close now why not make a decision to come along and, if so, please get back to me soonest. Likewise, if you know anyone else who might also be interested have them contact me, or pass their details on to me if you prefer.

Sorry to appear bullying on this issue but our association with the Fete goes back a very long way, for many years via Pete Adnams, a well-respected former member of our club and resident of Finchampstead village; hence our inheritance of the event.

This bi-annual event is scheduled for Saturday 12th July 2008.

Computer 'Surgery'

I, also, would like to add my personal thanks, to those of Colin, to Andy (Seager) and his son, Jon, for presenting such an informative, even entertaining, evening and fielding a considerable number of IT related questions posed by those members who turned up on 23rd June at the 'New Inn', to be 'educated'. Between them they handled everything most professionally and, despite the awesome (to use the modern parlance!) speed with which Jon, in particular, addressed each, previously-unannounced topic, none appeared to stump or faze either of them. Much was achieved in unravelling some of the many mysteries which have been bugging some of the 'pupils' and it only remains to be seen how much of their new-found knowledge will be retained and used over the coming weeks/months!

The consensus view, therefore, was, 'We must do it again some time'!

Smile ~ or Groan! ~ (again)

A young man named John received a parrot as a gift. The parrot had a bad attitude and an even worse vocabulary. Every word the bird uttered was rude, obnoxious and laced with profanity.

John tried and tried to change the bird's attitude by constantly saying only polite words, playing soft music and anything else he could think of to clean up the bird's vocabulary.

Finally, John was fed up and he yelled at the parrot. The parrot just yelled back. John shook the parrot and the parrot got angrier and even ruder. John, in desperation, threw up his hand, grabbed the bird and put him in the freezer. For a few minutes the parrot squawked and kicked and screamed.

Then, not a peep was heard for over a minute. Fearing that he'd hurt the parrot, John quickly opened the freezer. The parrot calmly stepped out into John's outstretched arms and said, "I believe I may have offended you with my rude language and actions. I am sincerely remorseful for my inappropriate transgressions and I fully intend to do anything I can to correct my rude and unforgivable behaviour".

John was stunned at the change in the bird's attitude. As he was about to ask the bird what had brought about such a dramatic change in his behaviour the bird continued, "By the way, may I ask what the turkey did?"

A bit of fun!

Elsewhere, as a slight departure from normal, there is a 'Driving Test' challenge. This consists of a 'short story', with spaces into which you are invited to insert the names of a car (make or model) in order to make the story complete and intelligible.

Please forward your entries to me, either via e-mail, (trevor_c.edwards@btinternet.com) or 'snail-mail', to 55 The Brambles, Crowthorne. Berks. RG45 6EF.

A modest prize will be awarded to the person submitting the entry, which, in the opinion of the committee, is the most apt and appropriate. Please note that, in the manner of all such things, the decision of the committee will be deemed final and no 'communication' of any on the matter will be entered into. The winner (hopefully) will be announced in the August Newsletter.

Good luck and get pondering! In the meantime and, as always,

Have fun and take care!

Trevor

Don's Doodlings

Firstly, Maureen and I would like to say thanks to Karen and Dave Witton for organizing the trip to Normandy to celebrate the D-Day landings. Speaking for ourselves, we had a fantastic time and judging by the response for another trip next year, it would appear everyone else enjoyed themselves. All of the ten places available have been provisionally booked for 2009. According to some, 2009 may be the last time the celebrations will be held. I do not think this will be so. I am quite convinced the veterans who march through Arromanche will be there until the last of the veterans as they are such a proud bunch of fantastic people. Let us not forget, when we are all standing in silence for two minutes, their thoughts are of all their good friends and comrades who never made it home.

Thanks to Tony and Pat for organizing the Half-Gallon Run. It really did get the old brain cells going. Maureen and I had help from Jan Barker and John Chad and we really surprised ourselves in how well we did. It was a really good evening and well thought out. Many thanks again, Tony and Pat.

Hopefully, we may have cured the fuel problem with Jenny and Peter Gallespie-Brown's car with an inline fuel filter. Plus new wiring which Peter is having carried out, I think it is pretty much up together and will be running well.

Maureen and I have been in the Cotswolds for three days, working on the route and activities for the Run on the 21st – 25th July. Now we are busy collating all the info we have gathered, into some recognisable format.

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at next club night.

Don

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QUERIES OF THE MONTH

The “Queries of the Month” originally appeared in “The Austin Magazine & Advocate” during the 1930s and 1940s. This months selection includes; starting your Austin Ten by hand and also how to clear a blocked jet. This advice from the Austin Motor Company, although given over 60 years ago, may still come in useful today.

No 859 appeared in April 1938 and No 1012 in September 1940.

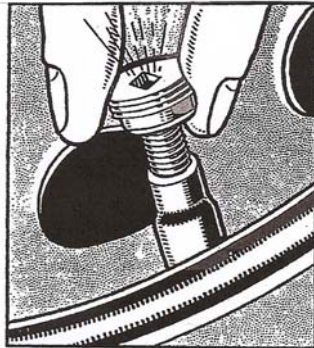
No 859 – Starting by Hand – Austin Ten

Q. *I shall be grateful for advice as to how I can secure the choke in a fully-closed position, if I ever wish to start my Ten by hand. The fact that the choke won't stay closed seems to preclude this practice. On my previous car provision was made for the choke to remain fully closed.*

A. In the interests of the cylinder and piston lubrication there is no stop to retain the choke control in the fully-closed position on the present-day Austin cars, but it is not difficult to arrange for it to be temporarily kept in that position while starting by hand. For instance, an ordinary match-box placed between the choke knob and the fascia board is a convenient method. Placed length-wise it holds out the choke far enough for a quick start to be obtained. This “distance piece” should be removed immediately the engine has started, as undue choking sucks petrol into the cylinders which dilutes the lubricant and causes wear.

N0 1012 – Jet Cleaning

Q. I have had several recent experiences of jets partially choked and which have been difficult to clear by the usual method of blowing through them either orally or with a tyre pump. On each occasion I have been sorely tempted to use a piece of wire, but you handbook strongly warns against this procedure. What else can be done when one is in a hurry?



Cleaning a carburettor jet obstruction with the compressed air from a tyre.

A. We admit that a short sharp blast of air is usually necessary to clear a jet when a particle of grit has become wedged inside. Next time you have similar trouble, try using the compressed air from a tyre. Remove the valve cap, place the jet on the valve at a slight angle, and push until the plunger is lifted off its seating. There will be an immediate response, and just a second's application will usually clear away the grit. The loss in tyre pressure will be negligible. Remember that the obstruction should be blown clear in the reverse direction of the petrol flow, or else it may become more firmly stuck in the jet. The use of wire, we must repeat, definitely injures jets, and will almost certainly increase petrol consumption.

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

Events Diary Update!

July			
14th	<i>Club night</i>	Concourse	
21-25th		Cotswold Run	Don
August			
3rd		Picnic in the Paddock	Colin/ Trevor
11th	<i>Club night</i>	Noggin' and Natter	
September			
5-8th		Warners – Norton Grange	Trevor
12-14th		Beaulieu Autojumble	
15th	<i>Club night</i>	History of Vertical Take-off Aircraft	George
October			
13th	<i>Club night</i>	"His and Hers" Night	Jean, Ann

& Mo

November

10th Club night Auction

Don

15th Nightjar

December

1st Club Dinner

8th Club night Festive Fun

Driving Test

(Note: The blanks in the story represent 30 makes or models of cars, both old and new)

It was a.....day as Martin and Cleo made their way along the between Cheltenham and

They were heading towards London, not only to celebrate their engagement, but his fiancée was to perform a double violin..... in D..... and was very nervous.

He tried to put her mind at ease as they entered the car park and paid thethe booth.

"..... be all right on the night", he said,

".....in there and knock them out, don't think of thepeople in the audience, just keep your eyes on the distant....."

"I guess so" said Cleo, " But my mouth is so dry". He gave her a to suck and she disappeared through the stage door. Martin sat alone; he had an hour to kill before the concert. He switched on the radio but quickly turned it off when he heard Espagne.

He picked up his copy of James Clavell's But somehow couldn't get into it and started to reflect on his past life.

He had had a privileged upbringing with his multi-millionaire parents having homes in, Texas and Jamaica's Bay. He had always been protected by a huge southern bodyguard, brandishing a45 and invariably greeting him with a cheerful "..... Partner"

In his teen years he had been a bit of a rebel with a veryattitude to life; his father had taken a poor view when he was.....compromising position with the kitchen maid though he had managed toany serious punishment. But Cleo was different, he was about to settle down and she was the on the top of his cake. Never again would he play the wild..... and make aall the girls.

He came back to reality with a jolt, Princess Alexander and her daughter..... were arriving to loud cheers and Martin proudly took his seat in the front row. The performance was a and was met with universal..... Afterwards, as they headed for Ronnie Scott's Club, where they both loved to relax, he sensed that they would move through life with one.....and 'climb every mountain andevery stream'.

Their dream was just beginning.