

NORTH HAMPSHIRE **AUSTIN** ENTHUSIASTS GROUP
Founded 1973

Monthly Newsletter and Events Update

www.nhaeg.org.uk

JULY 2009

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

Mo's Mutterings

I'm not going to say a lot apart from thanks to Karen and Dave Witton for their brilliantly organized trip to Normandy for D-Day. It was great to meet Billy Ness (see below), such a jolly man and he was so pleased to meet us in Normandy.

At this moment in time my house is full of suitcases, the contents of which will hopefully, fit into the wardrobes and chest-of-drawers I have left free! Yes, Jane and family have now arrived home from New Zealand to stay with us until their container arrives with the rest of their house contents, probably at the end of July!



This photograph, taken by Trevor Edwards on the Normandy Run, just about sums it all up! This is Billy Ness, the man SAV was all about in the first instance.

Secretary's Scribblings

Quiz News

Firstly, an apology. The eagle-eyed will have noted the non-appearance of a quiz in last month's Newsletter. This was due to a complete oversight on my part and to those (few) who appear to enjoy them I'm sorry for the omission. However one does appear this month, elsewhere, so 'normal service has been resumed'.

Secondly, results of the May quiz were held over another month due to the fact that one entry, though reportedly sent, evidently went astray and wasn't received. Accordingly it was decided to hold open the May quiz until 11th July to allow for this and any further entries to be submitted. Incidentally, this decision also meant that a prize would/will now be awarded to the winner since the original number of entries (4) received were insufficient to justify one. There needs to be a minimum of 5.

It can be reported that, to date, three entries at least have scored maximum points so some kind of fiendish 'play-off' will need to be devised to determine the winner(s) some time during the July Club Night ('Half-Gallon Run' evening). Nevertheless, please don't let this put anyone off entering the '*Trolley Good Shop*' quiz if you think you've found all the correct answers – the more the merrier!

Normandy 2009.

Considerable coverage of this trip doubtless appears elsewhere in this issue so suffice it simply to say that, once again, it was a truly enjoyable, though quite active experience, planned and executed with usual exemplary precision by Karen and Dave (Witton). Once again the weather was mostly very kind, apart from the very instant when our beleaguered Prime Minister appeared on the scene at Arromanches and the Heavens opened – how ominously significant was that!

Also, once again, it was a delight and privilege to meet with so many D-Day veterans proudly wearing their medals and all determined to 'stay the course', despite the 'rain on their parade'. Some were so weighed down with the number of medals sported they were almost leaning over to one side! One of the following photos, especially, conveys this image quite well.

Without dwelling too long on the subject it goes without saying that all our recent efforts to raise funds for the cause we adopted earlier this year proved very well worth it. Actually meeting up with one of those benefitting (ex- para Billy Ness) brought home to all of us who went on the trip how real and genuine the appreciation is for our actions. (More elsewhere on this aspect of the trip from Karen herself.)

Our journey out to Normandy and, indeed, travelling around the region went virtually without any untoward problem so far as our ancient machinery was concerned. The vehicles inevitably caused a great deal of interest and prompted a significant amount of energetic hand-waving and (I think!) mainly friendly gestures from the residents of Normandy. In fact, towards the end of our stay, Jean made the suggestion that, *if* we were to do the trip again, some form of automatic hand-waving device might be a useful piece of equipment to take!

Unfortunately, for 'PO', Jean and I, we were to end the last 20-odd miles or so of the return journey this side of the Channel rather ignominiously with 'PO' strapped firmly on the back of a recovery vehicle (see photo). In fact the cause of breakdown turned out to be fairly straightforward and ultimately quick to fix (the gear-lever suddenly became useless) but, at the time, I was more inclined to investigate thoroughly the cause of the problem at home rather than on the road-side dodging impatient rush-hour traffic!

I can whole-heartedly confirm, however, as a result of this episode, that the recovery service provided with insurance offered by RH Specialist Insurers, Brentwood, (many of us are with that company, I know) is absolutely first-class. The recovery vehicle was with us within 45 minutes and we were home roughly 45 minutes later, though the ride proved to be a 'white-knuckle' one!



Veterans at Pegasus Bridge Museum

'PO' completing the trip – with some assistance



Omaha beach – such exhausting work being a 'tourist'!

2010 Trip

In last month's Newsletter an early announcement was made, regarding a proposed trip to WW1 Battlefields in France and Belgium. This was accompanied by a specific request for those interested (in principle and without any obligation at this stage) to contact me.

Unfortunately, the response, once again, has been 'underwhelming', (just three sets of names have been received) and has caused some reflection to be made on the viability of such a trip. In fact, since it would appear that minimal interest exists, any effort expended in planning and arranging the trip would appear to be scarcely justified.

In view of this and after some recent discussion with Don (Breakspear) the proposal is now changed to running a trip to the Ironbridge area of Shropshire. Research and some advance planning for such a trip has, in fact, already been made by him. The provisional time for this is currently set for early July 2010 but Don is providing a few additional details on the subject elsewhere in this edition.

I do apologise to those few who may have been anticipating and even looking forward to the original proposal but it's suspected that perhaps an element of 'war-zone weariness' has crept in and maybe a return to the more cheery, conventional type of group trip is called for.

It had originally been intended to organise something for this year 'on the fly' so to speak, perhaps at short notice, taking into account any special offers and deals that might be around. However, it's suspected that most of our members will have made alternative arrangements by now for holidays and breaks so the appeal of this may not be great. We should, therefore, perhaps skip this year and save our pennies for some kind of 'spectacular' (or more!) in 2010. Any thoughts and general input on this topic would be very welcome!

That about wraps up my humble offering for this month. Hope to see you all at the '*Half-Gallon Run*', (next Club Night July 13th), which promises to be a fun one, organised by Richard (Scott). If you plan to take part and haven't already done so please do let him know on 0118 983 2224, email: Rscottok@btinternet.com, so he has sufficient material available on the evening for distribution.

If you don't let him know in advance you might need to bring along with you a copy of the OS Landranger Map, (Reading & Windsor) No 175. Be warned!

Till then, safe motoring and may your big ends never knock!

Trevor

Colin's Column

With very grey skies and heavy rain forecast for the evening I was not sure how many members would come to the June club night, especially as some of them had only just arrived back from France that afternoon. In the event, 45 members came with 20 cars lined up in the car park for our annual Concours d'Elegance.

As quite a few new members have joined us in the past two months there were a number of different cars to look at. As usual all members were given a voting form and asked to vote for what they considered the best 3 cars and also the best 3 Austin 7s. In the absence of Tim and June, who were on holiday, I asked Michelle to pick the 'Landlord's Choice'.

Although it was not a very warm evening everyone went out to judge the cars and with all the voting slips in, a count was made and the results announced. The winners, by a very large margin, of the Peter Adnams Memorial Trophy and a bottle of wine were David and Ann Butcher with their very smart 1933 Austin Ten Saloon. Their Austin Ten had been recently inherited from David's Father and after a few problems that have now been sorted out, they are beginning to enjoy some Austin motoring. In second place were Don and Maureen Breakspear with their 1926 Austin 12 Windsor followed in third place by Trevor and Jean Edwards 1935 Austin 10 Colwyn Cabriolet.

The winner of the Breakspear Cup and a bottle of wine for the best Austin 7 was Dave Witton in a Type 65. In second place, just one point behind, was Andy Seager in a 1931 Tourer and in third place Karen Witton, also in a Tourer. The winners of the Landlord's Choice were again David and Ann Butcher, who received another bottle of wine. Michelle obviously knows her Austins.

Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to everyone else for bringing their cars along on such a grey and dismal evening.

With the results announced I gave a brief talk on the Nightjar, our premier event, which this year takes place on the 21st November and is now in its 34th year. The reason for doing this was because of the number of new members who have joined us over the past year and also for other members who are not quite sure what it all involves. It obviously wetted quite a few appetites as six members indicated an interest in finding out more. I have therefore arranged to use the conference room at The New Inn on Monday 6th July at 8.00pm so that we can get together to enable me to explain the 'Nightjar' in more detail. If any other members would like to join us then send me an email or give me a ring **ASAP** so that Trevor knows how much paperwork to produce.

As those of you with email already know I have arranged a visit to the BMW Mini factory at Cowley on the 25th August at 1.00pm. The reason I sent out an email was because I had to give an indication of numbers when I booked the tour so therefore could not wait for this Newsletter to come out. I very quickly received 20 names so I booked for 25, the maximum allowed on each tour. This means there are 5 places left, if anyone else would like to go please contact me **ASAP** as I have to let BMW know fairly soon if we are not taking all the places on the tour. The cost is £12 or £10 for

those over 60. Obviously, if I receive more than 5 names then the places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

The arrangements are that those wishing to go in their historic vehicles can meet up in Wokingham and travel on an attractive route I have worked out which avoids main roads. We will be stopping at a village pub four miles from Cowley for something to eat before arriving at the factory at 12.45pm, the total distance is 34 miles. Obviously, anyone wishing to go in a “modern” is very welcome to join us on the run. Anyone wishing to make their own way may do so and can either join us for lunch or at the factory. If you would like more information then please give me a ring on 0118 978 2087. Full details of the day will be sent to all those going nearer the date.

At our July club night we will have our annual ‘Half Gallon Run’, which this year is kindly being organised by Richard Scott. The event, for the benefit of the many new members who have joined in the past year, is so called because it was first run many years ago when most members owned Austin Sevens and would use about half a gallon of petrol over the distance of 15-20 miles.

Richard does need to know how many members are entering so if you wish to enter and you have not done so already please contact him ***now***. There should be details elsewhere in this newsletter. Please support Richard and have a great evening and maybe win a prize.

There are two events coming up in July. The first on Sunday the 12th is the ‘Midsummer Meander’ being organised by Tony and Pat Westall. There were details in last months newsletter. Tony and Pat do need to know how many to expect so if you want to go and have not already let them know please do so ***now***.

The second event is our annual ‘Picnic in the Paddock’, which will be held as usual in Finchampstead, thanks to the generosity of Ray and Ian Adnams in letting us again use their Paddock. It will start at 12.00pm, please bring food and drink, also chairs and tables. There is plenty of room so feel free to bring a gazebo if you want. Children and grandchildren are very welcome as are relatives and friends. We will have our usual fun driving tests, kindly arranged by Don and there is plenty of room for the children to play games. If you have not been before and would like details of how to get there and will not be at the July club night then give me a ring.

Looking ahead to next month I will be organising an ‘August Amble’ on Sunday 16th August and will give you full details in the next newsletter. In the meantime put the date in your diaries if you have not already done so.

If you go to our web site www.nhaeg.org.uk you will see many photographs taken on ‘Drive it Day’. Many thanks to Andy Seager for taking the pictures and also to Paul Edwards for putting them on our web site.

That’s it for now.

Safe and Happy Motoring,

Colin.

Don's Doodlings

Firstly, can I thank everyone who went on the D-Day Run for making my time in Normandy so enjoyable. Being with great company is obviously the key to a successful Run. Secondly, my sincere thanks to Karen and Dave for organising the whole event.

Maureen and I are planning a five-day trip to Staffordshire during the first week in **July 2010**. The five days will include the weekend starting on **Thursday 1st July**.

As yet, this Run has not had the approval of the club committee but we will be discussing this at the next committee meeting. The proposed plan is to leave Reading and travel to Bridgnorth with three stops during the day, morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea. Maureen and I will check out the proposed hotel and confirm the route which uses minor roads as much as possible. At the moment, the hotel has fourteen double bedrooms available, so this will determine the maximum number of entries for the Run.

We do appreciate this is a year away but if you would like to join us, please e-mail Maureen (maureenbreakspear@yahoo.co.uk) and we will include you on the entry list, it will be a "first come, first serve" basis.

If we have a reasonable response, we will continue the plans and keep you informed of progress.

Don

Listen very carefully – I shall say this only once – LAST Instalment

After all our hard work raising money for the veterans, at last the day of 2nd June dawned and what a beautiful day – warm and sunny. In fact Dave and I were very lucky as we took the whole week off work and the day before we had had a lazy day on the beach – it certainly beats working for a living!

Dave and I were really looking forward to the trip. Not only is it great when plans come together, we also had a number of little treats lined up for the 'chamois leather' group BUT most importantly we were all set up for a meeting with Billy Ness – my granddad and Pauline Barlow's dad!!

Billy had travelled out to France on the Sunday, having spent all of Saturday in a minibus coming down from his home town of Newcastle. I had the details of where he and his group were staying – a little way from the lovely town of Bayeux. We had arranged to meet up on the 5th June when we would be at Pegasus Bridge. You may recall that Billy was parachuted into that area on the 6th June.

The day before – the 4th June was quite an extraordinary day for us. We decided to visit the Batterie at Longues sur Mer. This is impressive as it is quite intact and you can get a real sense of just how scary these gun emplacements were – imagine going

through all the trauma of arriving there and then faced with these truly massive guns deeply embedded into concrete and therefore pretty impenetrable. After this we opted for a picnic on Omaha beach. We decided against visiting the American cemetery due to the preparations for the Presidents visit on 6th June. This was definitely a good move. When we had decided where and started to set our picnic out, we were approach by a well- spoken US secret service type guy. He let us know that a couple of helicopters would be landing quite nearby and he did not want our picnic ruined. Amazingly he was not asking us to move but was simply concerned for us! We decided to brave it out. As we uncorked the wine and set out the cheese, at the appointed hour we stood by our stations – I held on to the wine..... and made sure that our picnic did not blow away. Can you imagine being 50 yards from the military helicopter - We cannot imagine what the crew thought – probably that we were eccentric or crazy or both. They are no doubt right.

The 5th was an early start as we knew that there were “paras” around who were doing drops at Ranville, which is right by Pegasus Bridge. We set off early and what a fantastic day both weather wise and also atmosphere. We managed to park our old ladies in the usual spot and circulate. There were so many little ceremonies taking place, co many vets and so many stories. We decided on a relatively early retreat to the hotel that pm as we were due back that evening and hoping to see Billy.

What fun we had when we turned up in the evening – the gendarmes had closed the roads and despite all our protestations they would not let us in. Don duly managed to get the head chap – some General – who also tried BUT ‘you can’t park there ‘ was not to be budged! Not to be downhearted the ten little Austins barged their way into the Project 65 carpark. This was very handy and also better than the other one as it meant that our old girls were safe.

The evening was superb – the fireworks fantastic and most of all, my Granddad was there. Pauline rushed over to say she had found him – as I approached Billy was saying – where’s my grand daughter? He was in fine form and very emotional to see us – he had brought us a beautiful present which we shall show you all and was quite choked as he told us that he simply couldna believe how kind we had been and that without our support he could not have made the trip. I am so glad that we did all we did as to see the difference it made to Billy was very touching. There was a lot of drinking, shouting, dancing and that was just us..... Well of course not – but what an evening. When we finally returned to the hotel at c2am we finished off with a Cognac which was all very welcome.

We also saw Billy again on the Sunday at Balleroy chateau. It was less frantic and we were able to chat and take the guys for rides in the cars. A good time was had by all and again all can attest to what a character Billy is – he may be 87 but he is sharp as a tack and cracking loads of jokes. Something very strange happened as well. As I introduced Billy to Molly – as I was taking him for a car ride – he suddenly stopped and asked her name. He was stunned as his dearly departed wife had been called Molly – what a coincidence!

It is so nice to think that all our hard work paid off and brought such joy to Billy and others – it certainly makes it all worthwhile. It reminds me how lucky we all are.

KAREN WITTON

The Half Gallon (Challenge) Run

July 13th 2009

On the July Club Night it is the annual Half Gallon Run which this year takes the form of a scatter treasure hunt.

Starting from 7pm at The New Inn, entrants will have 1.5hrs to cover roughly 15 miles on minor roads, solving clues and completing various challenges along the way.

All entrants should bring at least one clipboard (2 would be better) and suitable pens, pencils, rubbers. They will be provided with a largescale full colour OS map showing the precise locations to be visited.

There will be numerous prizes on offer and the winner will of course receive the coveted Half Gallon Jug.

As colour printing is **expensive** all prospective participants are asked to signify their intention to take part by telephone or e mail to; Rscottok@btinternet.com or 0118-983-2224
SO, if you come along without letting me know you will have to bring your own OS Map 175 (Reading) and copy the locations onto your map.

(So far I have entries from messrs; Edwards, Gregg, Butcher, McCann, Ewart, Westhall and Breakspear)

Hope to see a good number of you on the night.

Richard Scott

Dogmersfield, Winchfield and Crookham Village Horticultural Society 56th Flower Show and Fete

Saturday, 18th July, 2009 2.00 pm Pilcot Farm, Dogmersfield
(by the Queens Head Pub)

- Farnham Brass Band
- Homested Collies
- Collectors' Cars
- Kidsrome Animal Farm
- Punch & Judy
- Refreshments
- Crafts, games and side shows
- Children's events, races, amusements and fancy dress
- Yateley Morris Dancers
- Alpacas

Admission. Adults £2. Children. Free
Members. Free. Collectors' car owners. Free

2009 COMMITTEE CONTACTS:

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Please check that you have the following email addresses correctly in the NHAEG Membership List:

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Phil Dunford phildunford@dunfords.co.uk

SUNBEAM TALBOT DARRACQ REGISTER

INTER REGISTER GYMKHANA 26TH JULY 2009

ENTRANT/DRIVER:

NAME

ADDRESS

Telephone No.....MOTOR CLUB.....

VEHICLE:

MAKE**MODEL**.....

REGISTRATION NO. YEAR.....

INSURANCE COMPANY/BROKER & address.....

I declare that:

- 1) I have been given an opportunity to read the General Regulations of the Motor Sports Association and , if any, the Supplementary Regulations for this event and agree to be bound by them. I declare that I am physically and mentally fit to take part in the event and am competent to do so. I acknowledge that I understand the nature and type of the competition and the potential risk inherent with motor sport and agree to accept that risk. Further I understand that all persons having any connection with the promotion and /or organisation and/or conduct of the event are insured against loss or injury caused through their negligence.
- 2) The use of the vehicle hereby entered is covered by insurance as required by the law which is valid for such part of this event as shall take place on roads as defined by the law.
- 3)

ENTRANT.....**SIGNATURE**.....

DRIVER.....**SIGNATURE**.....

(If different from entrant)

If entrant or driver is under 18 his/her parent or lawful guardian must sign on his/her behalf.....

NOVICE YES/NO (A novice is one who has not been placed in the first three classes in any VSCC Autotest or gained 1st ,2nd , or 3rd in any Inter Register Autotest.)

LUNCH: How many will require lunch at the Pub?.....

FEE: £10 Please return completed entry form with the fee(cheques payable to STD Ltd) to S Costigan, 76 Thrupp Lane Stroud, Glos. GL5 2DG. 01453 766854

INTER REGISTER GYMKHANA 26TH JULY 2009

SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS:

- 1) The STD Register, on behalf of the Inter Register Club, will organise a Gymkhana on Sunday 26th July 2008 in the car park of Cr. Hansen, Tealgate, Charnham Park, Hungerford, Berks. Ordnance Survey map reference 335693.
- 2) The meeting will be governed by the General Regulations of the RAC Motor Sports Association Ltd, these supplementary regulations and any written instructions that the organising club may issue for the event.
- 3) The RAC Motor Sports Association will issue an exemption certificate for this event.
- 4) The event is open to all fully elected members of the Inter Register Club.
- 5) All competitors and drivers must produce a valid Club membership card.
- 6) The event is a round of the Inter Register Club Championship.
- 7) The programme of the meeting will be; Signing on from 10.00am. Any competitor not signed on by 11.00 may be excluded. Tests will start at 10.45 and will end no latter than 5.00pm.
- 8) Cars will be required to complete a number of Tests of driving skill and competence. All tests will be carried out entirely on private land on tarmac. The Schedule of Tests will be supplied after signing in.
- 9) The event will consist of two classes; **Experts**. The driver having won First, Second or Third Class award in VSCC or IRC event, and **Novices**. Competitors are to declare their status on the Entry form.
- 10) Awards will be presented for First, Second, Third individual places, best team and best placed novice.
- 11) The entry fee for the competition is £10. All entries must be on the official entry form accompanied by the fee. Entries close on 20th July 2009.
- 12) The Secretary of the meeting to whom all entries must be sent is;
Stephen Costigan, 76 Thrupp Lane Stroud Glos. GL5 2DG. Tel 01453 766854
mobile 07973 884983
- 13) Minimum entry for the meeting is 12 & maximum 40. If the minimum figure is not reached the organisers may cancel the meeting. Entries will be accepted in the order of receipt of the entry form.
- 14) Marking and penalties will be set out in the Schedule of Tests and provisional results will be published as soon as possible after the end of the event.
- 15) It is intended that there will be a break between the morning and afternoon tests. As there will be no refreshments available on the site it is hoped to arrange an optional social run to a country Pub of around 30 miles. Please indicate on the entry form how many will require food at the Pub.

CLUB NIGHT & EVENTS DIARY/UPDATE

JULY
12th

Midsummer Meander

13th

Half-gallon Run (Start from 1900 onwards)

26th

'Picnic in the Paddock'

AUGUST

10th

Walking Rally

16th

August Amble

25th

Trip to BMW Car Plant

31st

Littlewick Show, Maidenhead

SEPTEMBER

12/13th

Beaulieu Autojumble

14th

SAV Review/Normandy

20th

Peter's Potter

OCTOBER

12th

Poss. Talk by Vince Leek

18th

B2B Run (BEN to Brooklands)

NOVEMBER

9th

Auction Night

21st

Nightjar Navigational Scatter Rally

DECEMBER

14th

Festive Fun Evening