

NORTH HAMPSHIRE *AUSTIN* ENTHUSIASTS GROUP
Monthly Newsletter and Events Update

www.nhaeg.org.uk

JUNE 2007

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

Mo's Mutterings

Before I forget, I would like to point out that the date of the BEN to BROOKLANDS Run is NOT the 16th October as previously published but the **21st OCTOBER.**

Also the other change of date is for the Picnic in the Paddock now changed to the 22nd July because so many committee members would have been away. As there are quite a lot of things to do on the day all the committee members are really needed

Don and I have had a very enjoyable Austin month with some good weather and lovely trips out in our cars. The weekend at Cricket St. Thomas was brilliant, such good fun and most excellently organised by Trevor and Jean Edwards. Many thanks to you both. (Hope you like the photographs!)

We are now looking forward to the D-Day celebrations run organised by Dave and Karen Witton and also the Half Gallon Run which Chris and Brian are planning for us.

We are really lucky to have so many club members who give their valuable time and resources to make our club activities so enjoyable.



Where the devil did that come from? It wasn't there when we left Basingstoke!



Come back Noddy

Colin's Column

May Club Night

As it had rained most of the day most members came in their modern cars not wishing to get their 'Pride and Joys' dirty as most had got them ready for the weekend trip to Cricket St Thomas. There were a few hardy ones though who braved the weather and came in proper cars, so well done to them.

Don and Maureen brought along a DVD about The Southward Motor Museum they visited while on holiday in New Zealand, which was very interesting to watch. With so many members present it was difficult to arrange the seating but hopefully you all managed to get a reasonable view and enjoyed it as much as I did. Many thanks to Don and Maureen for bringing the DVD along with the necessary equipment to show it.

During the course of the evening I had the pleasure of presenting a framed photograph of some of our cars parked outside the 'New Inn' to Tim and June our Landlords. We have been meeting at the New Inn for just over a year and in that time they have been excellent hosts. They were delighted with it and said they would hang it in one of the bars. Peter Adams also gave them a very period looking photograph in black and white, which they will also display.

Cricket St Thomas

Our weekend away which once again was organised by Trevor and Jean was a great success and despite the dreadful weather of the previous week it improved for the weekend enabling many of us to have our hoods down for most of the time.

Twenty-nine people in fourteen cars set off on the Friday to make the trip to Cricket St Thomas in Somerset. There were seven Austin 7's of assorted types, four 10's, one 12 and two MGB's. Six of us met up at Basingstoke to drive to the coffee stop in Stockbridge where we were met by a few more cars before setting off for our lunch stop at Shaftesbury. After a very good lunch we were then off on the last leg of our journey, which took us to our final destination, Cricket St Thomas, having travelled all the way from Basingstoke on the A30. Here we met up with those who had made their own way. The total distance from home was 110 miles.

With the unpacking finished Ann and I joined Don and Maureen for a swim, which after the long journey was very much appreciated, before joining everyone else for a pre-dinner drink. Whilst enjoying our drinks Trevor distributed the money which represented the free place that Warners give to the organisers of groups. As in previous years Trevor very generously did not take the free place but put the money into four envelopes and asked the barman to draw out names. The winners of the main prize were Peter and Jennie.

After Dinner some of us met up with Martin Jordan and Simon College, former members of the club who now live in Somerset and had come over to the hotel for a drink and chat about old times. It was very nice to see them both.

On the Saturday everyone was free to do whatever they liked. Quite a few of us went to Lyme Regis following a route from Trevor where we enjoyed coffee, a walk round the town and lunch, before returning to the hotel. In the afternoon Ann and I went for a walk round the Wildlife Park, which is adjacent to the hotel. After Dinner many of us met up for a hilarious evening of charades after watching a “magic” trick by Don.

On Sunday most of us drove to Beaminster where we left our cars and went on a walk devised by Trevor and Jean, which finished at Mapperton House. The house itself was not open but the restaurant and gardens were and prior arrangements had been made for us to have our lunch there. After lunch there was plenty of time to look round the very impressive gardens before starting our return walk via a different route to the cars for the drive back to the hotel. In the evening after being shown a very good trick by Peter we had a quiz organised by Karen. It was women versus the men with the winners being the women. Well done to them.

Monday came too soon and it was time to load the cars and make our separate ways home. Some visited friends or relations on the way, some visited places of interest and some of us stopped at a retail park at Wilton for lunch and a little retail therapy for the ladies, although I must admit to buying a pair of shoes myself. Well, they were half price.

All in all a very enjoyable long weekend, the accommodation, food and service were very good and the company was excellent. I hope everyone enjoyed themselves as much as Ann and I did and trust you all made it safely home. I know all those of you who went would want me to say a big thank you to Trevor and Jean for all the hard work that went into the organization of the weekend. I know from comments I heard that you all appreciated the efforts they put into it.

The Great Cockcrow Railway

As many of you probably know, as well as old cars (Austins in particular) I also like steam trains as does my Grandson and to a certain extent my Granddaughters. The other day we visited a miniature railway, which although it has been around for 40 years I had never heard of it before. It is called ‘The Great Cockcrow Railway’ and is situated at Lyne near Chertsey. It has 26 steam engines and it is the only miniature main line railway in the country. Construction commenced over 40 years ago and has developed into an authentic replica of a British main line railway in the steam era, with up to ten trains running at one time. It has been engineered to exceptionally high standards with a comprehensive signalling system, using ex British Rail equipment, controlled from three main signal boxes. Such is the realism of the railway that present day railway operators use it for training.

There are two routes to travel on both taking about 25 minutes through some lovely countryside over bridges and through tunnels with trains running every few minutes. It is well worth a visit although it is only run on Sunday afternoons during the summer and some days during school holidays so, if you are thinking of going, visit their web site www.cockcrow.co.uk first.

June Club Night

June is when we have our 'Half Gallon Run', which this year is kindly being organised by Chris and Brian. It is a short run around the lanes looking for clues, which hopefully will not be too difficult to find. You can start anytime from 7.00pm onwards. Please come along and support Chris and Brian and also have some fun. The winner will receive the 'Half Gallon' Trophy as well as a bottle of wine.

Some of you will be setting off to France soon on a trip kindly organised by David and Karen, I hope you get good weather and have a safe and enjoyable trip. Hopefully one of you will write about your experiences in the next newsletter.

Before signing off I would draw everyone's attention to the notice elsewhere in this Newsletter regarding the change of date for the Picnic, which is now being held on **22nd JULY**

Safe and Happy Motoring,

COLIN

Secretary's Scribblings

Cricket St. Thomas - 18th/21st May

Well - it's over - as Colin has reported in his Column, this trip has now been and gone and, from the several e-mails, letters, cards and verbal comments received, for which I thank those who sent them, it seems that everyone enjoyed the experience hugely, despite the amount of driving involved this year which was considerably more than on previous occasions.

Although it's true that a certain amount of preparation is inevitably necessary with such trips, however brief they are, it is always especially satisfying and makes the effort *really* worthwhile if everyone taking part in them feels that they have enjoyed themselves.

What was particularly pleasing, this year, was that the weather, although forecast to be fairly mediocre at best, actually turned out to be very kind once again and we were, therefore, able to complete a programme of planned activities without having to resort to any form of 'Plan B's'. For those (the majority!) who took part in the walk from Beaminster to Mapperton Gardens in the Sunday I do apologize for the 'code' used (i.e. 'slightly challenging') to describe the initial section and they may wish to make careful note of this expression with regard to its possible use in any future similar activity! Seriously though, it could, at worst, perhaps be termed only a 'health walk' and, at least, we didn't have to call in para-medics with oxygen cylinders at any time!

Apart from a little uncertainty, after leaving Mapperton, over the precise location of the public footpath, causing us briefly to wander somewhat aimlessly over an impressive crop of grass and clover, [until the problem was resolved by some able pathfinding by Sandra (Ryley)], everyone made it back to their respective vehicles in Beaminster, for a timely return to our hotel.

The return home on Monday was under rather damp conditions, necessitating hoods to be raised (for those having them), but, overall, was not too bad and there were no reports of anyone being forced to make unscheduled stops (though one driver was clearly observed in a layby, with his head on or very close to the steering wheel, having a nap!)

In any event, to all those who participated this year, a big 'thank you' for supporting the trip (without such great support it definitely would not be worth the effort) and for those who did not, why not consider joining us next year when we must try to beat this year's record of 29 attendees in 14 vehicles!

Loseley House and Park Visit - 8th July:

Jean reports that 24 have now signed up for this run and wishes to advise that the rendezvous point and route chosen will be given out to those attending the June Club Night ('Half-Gallon Run') or will be forwarded by post to those not doing so.

Annual Subscription - proposed change to purpose.

As many will be aware the payment of an annual 'subscription' was introduced some years ago primarily and essentially to cover the cost of producing and distributing a monthly Newsletter and this has been the situation prevailing since that time. Those paying such subscription have routinely received the Newsletter whilst those who may have attended our meetings, either regularly or infrequently, but have not paid, consequently have not received the Newsletter.

However, now that we are a club standing alone in its own right, the committee feels that it might be appropriate for the primary purpose of the subscription to be formally changed to indicate *actual membership* of the North Hampshire Austin Enthusiasts Group (NHAEG), rather than simply a means of funding the Newsletter element.

In order for such a proposal to be introduced and incorporated into our Club Rules (Constitution) it will, of course, be necessary to put this to the membership, either in the form of holding an Extraordinary General Meeting, to address and debate the issue exclusively, or by postal ballot; which of these methods is yet to be decided upon.

Nevertheless, please be aware of the proposal, as outlined above, which, in essence, implies no practical change in subscription, merely the purpose to which it will be more accurately aligned in the future. It would, however, mean that everyone who attends meetings on a regular basis *would* need to be a subscribed member and would automatically continue to receive the monthly Newsletter, as at present.

ALittle Bird Told Me!

It's a little way off yet but rumour has it that this year's Concours d'Elegance evening (9th July) should be rather special since one of the vehicles expected to turn up has not, so far as I am aware, ever been brought along to the event before. So make it a date to come along and (hopefully) have the opportunity to inspect something really exceptional!

'Half-Gallon' Run

Before the Concours evening however, we have the ever-popular 'Half-Gallon Run' on June 11th which, this year, is being organized by Chris Broom and Brian Mayers. It promises to be a lot of fun so, wish for a fine evening, weather-wise and get along to the 'New Inn' for a start any time from 7.00 pm onwards.

Logo'd Garments.

As most members will know we now have a source of garments bearing our club logo (e.g. Tee Shirts, Polo Shirts, Sweat Shirts, Body Warmers, Caps, etc) and several have ordered items over the past six months or so. These garments have been found to be of good quality and represent really quite excellent value for money. In addition to their obvious use they are obviously also a way of subtly promoting our club to others.

However, we are advised that orders can only be accepted for 5 or more garments at a time. Please be aware, therefore, that we shall only be placing orders *twice* a year; most likely in August and February, so, if you are thinking of ordering something please bear these dates in mind.

Furthermore, and most importantly, please also be advised that, from hereon, **Roy Roberts** will be the person responsible for accepting and placing bulk orders, etc.

He can be contacted on 01276 27043 (e-mail: royrobertsr@tiscali.co.uk) but note that payment *with* order will be required in all instances.]

That's about all for this month. Hoping for a fine evening, see you at the 'Half-Gallon'!

TREVOR

Don's Doodlings

One of the old sayings I have heard for many years is that when you retire you don't know how you found time to go to work. This is true, there never seems to be enough time in a day to do all the things I have planned. Maybe, as Maureen is always telling me, I try to cram too much into too little time.

On the good side, Maureen and I had a great weekend away at Cricket St. Thomas with the rest of the "gang". I am sure a full report will be in the newsletter somewhere but we would like to say thanks to everyone for your great company and to Trevor and Jean for organising the whole weekend so well. All the cars made the trip under their own steam (so to speak) and our Austin "13", "5 door" saloon went very well. (Those who were at CST will understand).

For the next few days Maureen and I are very busy getting ready for our trip to France, organised by Karen and Dave Witton, to commemorate the D-Day landings. We hope to take Chummy if her major refit is complete but I think we are running out of time and we may have to have the new hood fitted on our return. I am really looking forward to the trip but I do have a nasty feeling about my pre-booked hotel accommodation. I have seen the photograph of my sleeping area and "it don't look good", what has that Karen Witton been up to, I wonder? I will let you know in my next doodlings.

Here are some "car jokes" sent to me by daughter, Karen, in Dubai who sends her best wishes to all club members who know her!

For all of you who look after your own cars, what Haynes says and what it really means...

Haynes: Rotate anticlockwise.

Translation: Clamp with molegrips then beat repeatedly with hammer anticlockwise.

Haynes: This is a snug fit.

Translation: You will skin your knuckles!

Haynes: This a tight fit.

Translation: Not a hope in hell matey!

Haynes: As described in Chapter 7...

Translation: That'll teach you not to read through before you start, now you are looking at scary photos of the inside of a gearbox.

Haynes: Pry...

Translation: Hammer a screwdriver into...

Haynes: Undo...

Translation: Go buy a tin of WD40 (catering size).

Haynes: Retain tiny spring...

Translation: "Jeez what was that, it nearly had my eye out"!

Haynes: Press and rotate to remove bulb...

Translation: OK – that's the glass bit off, now fetch some good pliers to dig out the bayonet part.

Haynes: Lightly...

Translation: Start off lightly and build up 'till the veins on your forehead are throbbing then re-check the manual because what you are doing now cannot be considered "lightly".

More to come...another time.

DON

More photos taken by club members at Cricket St. Thomas



From above.....



.....and below!



Maureen and Don
struggling back to
the car after THE
WALK !

STOP PRESS! STOP PRESS! STOP PRESS!

If you are intending to join the group going to Reading Greyhound Stadium on the 3rd July, can I please have your cheque for £10.95 per person, made out to the NHAEG, within the next FIVE days.

Apologies for “pushing” as I did say the cut-off date for payment was the 19th June. In contact with the stadium, I was told that as this is a very popular time of the year, to secure our booking we have to pay NOW.

Please note, paying up front means there can be no refund if you are unable to attend.

Don Breakspear

2006 COMMITTEE CONTACTS:

Chairman:	Colin Greig	01189782087 (colin@greigc.freemove.co.uk)
Secretary:	Trevor Edwards	01344775012 (trevor_c.edwards@btinternet.com)
Treasurer:	Jean Edwards	01344775012 (trevor_c.edwards@btinternet.com)
Editor:	Maureen Breakspear	01189733568 (maureenbreakspear@yahoo.co.uk)
Committee:	Don Breakspear	01189733568 (maureenbreakspear@yahoo.co.uk)
	Roy Roberts:	0127627043 (royrobertsr@tiscali.co.uk)
	George Ewart	01344778286 (george.ewartx@btinternet.com)
	John Hancock	01189885387 (route66_2003@hotmail.com)

Events Diary Update!

June 3 rd /7 th	D-Day Celebrations. Normandy	Dave Witton
June 11 th	Half-Gallon Run	Chris Broom and Brian Mayers
June 15 th /17 th	Brooklands Museum Centenary Celebrations (Contact Colin for details. Cost £35.00 per ticket/per day)	
June 30 th	Paul Finn Rally (BEN Run Ascot/Lynwood Fete via Windsor Great Park)	
July 3 rd	Night at Reading Dogs	Don Breakspear
July 8 th	Loseley House Nr. Guildford Coffee followed by walk then lunch and visit To gardens and house (optional)	Jean Edwards
July 9 th	Annual Concours d'Elegance	
July 14 th /15 th July	Aero & Autojumble - Brooklands	
July 22 nd	Picnic in the Paddock – Finchampstead	
August 13 th	Club Night Noggin' and Natter	
August 19 th	Trip to Water Gardens, Longstock Near Stockbridge	George and Ruth Ewart
August 19 th	Reading & Wokingham Show Loddon Court Farm, Beech Hill, Swallowfield	
August 27 th	Littlewick Show, Holyport, Nr. Maidenhead	
Sept.8 th /9 th	International Autojumble – Beaulieu	
September 10 th	Club Night Quiz	John & Jean Hancock
October 8 th	Club Night Talk by Julie Els	
October 21 st	B2B Run (BEN Lynwood to Brooklands) To be confirmed	
November 12 th	Auction Night	Don B.
December 3 rd	Christmas Dinner @ The Falcon	
December 10 th	Fun and Games Evening	