

NORTH HAMPSHIRE *AUSTIN* ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

Founded 1973

Monthly Newsletter and Events Update

www.nhaeg.org.uk

JUNE 2008

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

Mo's Mutterings

It has been good to get out in the Austins since the better weather began and getting together with the club members is so much fun. It's great that so many club members offer their services in organizing events and gatherings and also contribute input into the newsletter. I think we are very lucky to have such sociable club members!

Maureen

Colin's Column



On the 28th April a group of members attended Charlie Couling's funeral at the Easthampstead Crematorium. Charlie was probably not known to many of you, as he had not been able to attend club meetings and events for a little while. He had however, been a member of the NHAEG for very many years. We all drove our Austins, which I think the family appreciated and after the service we went to the Downshire Golf Club for tea where they had displayed photographs of Charlie and some of the many cars he had owned. Charlie was a real character and will be sadly missed.

For our May club night we were blessed with glorious weather so we had a good display of cars in the car park, including Peter and Jennie's newly acquired Austin 7 which was there when Ann and I arrived early for a meal. However to our surprise there was no sign of Peter and Jennie, perhaps they had gone for a walk, we thought.

As usual there were quite a few of us having a meal and when we had finished we found out from June the Landlady that Peter had left the car there earlier, as it was not running very well, hoping someone might be able to sort it out in the evening. How many heads can you get under an Austin 7 bonnet? When Peter and Jennie arrived it seemed most of the club had their heads under the bonnet and very quickly it was established that the fuel filter was blocked, which Don put right and the engine was soon running sweetly again.

As darkness fell we adjourned to our club-room where Don had set up his television to show us a film of one of the club holidays to the Isle of White and also film of his and Maureen's recent trip to New Zealand. It was very interesting and as expected, Don had found a few vintage vehicles to film.

Many thanks Don and Maureen.

At our June meeting we will be having our annual 'Half Gallon Run' which this year is being organised by Tony and Pat Westhall. The distance will be about 15 miles and you can start any time from 7.00pm onwards. Tony has asked that you bring a medium sized ice cream tub or plastic box to put things in and has promised a fun evening which will be a bit different from the usual format of the Half Gallon Run. Please come along, support Tony and Pat and have some fun.

Tony and Pat are also organising a Mid-Summer Meander Mystery Run on Sunday 29th June, details were in last month's newsletter. If you wish to go or would like more information please telephone Tony on 01420 87450 ASAP.

Finally before signing off I would like to thank Don and Maureen for organising an excellent night at the Greyhound Racing in Reading last night (21st May). Fourteen of us went and enjoyed a very good meal and excellent company. None of us could be described as great gamblers but we had a small bet on all the races. It seemed that the men had worked out systems, which I think we all kept to and most of the ladies went for dogs with names they liked. Needless to say the ladies were far more successful than the men. It was a lot of fun and if Don and Maureen should organise another evening there I would recommend you give it a try.

Safe and Happy Motoring,

Colin

Secretary's Scribblings

BEN

Many will be aware that the Motor & Allied Trades Benevolent Fund, more generally known simply as 'BEN', has a retirement home, 'Lynwood', situated in Sunninghill, near Ascot. Eamonn Galligan, who masterminds the annual BEN Run, which starts at Ascot and takes in roads through Windsor Great Park, normally closed to the general public, before terminating at 'Lynwood', is tireless in his efforts to raise funds for the home. He has recently contacted us to enquire whether there may be any way in which we might assist these efforts. We have responded by pointing out that we are a fairly small club with limited resources but would give the matter some consideration. Accordingly and bearing in mind that a number of our members do participate in and greatly enjoy the BEN Run and also, last October, took part in the so-called 'B2B Run' from Lynwood to Brooklands we have proposed that perhaps a small levy could be placed on certain of our activities and events which then could be donated to BEN. This idea was put to those attending the May Club Night and there appeared to be general support for the idea.

Consequently, and after some discussion, it is further proposed that a nominal sum of £2.00 be levied on each vehicle taking part in the forthcoming 'Half Gallon Run', to take place on the June Club Night ((9th)), the sum raised to be augmented by the raffle proceeds that evening. It is hoped that members will approve this particular initiative since it is already known that assurance given to Eamonn Galligan that we would review options available to us to help in his fund-raising efforts are very much appreciated and applauded. Indeed, the measure outlined here evidently is being used as a model in his approaches to other clubs of a similar nature and membership.

If any member should have ideas of how else we might be able to offer some kind of financial support – however small or modest – please convey these to me or any member of the committee for consideration. Many thanks!

Finchampstead Fete 2008

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

As has been the case over the past two or three occasions the NHAEG has been asked by the fete organising committee to be involved with the Motor Rally element which forms a major attraction for this, most typically English of village fetes. Many will recall that Pete Adnams, well-respected owner of Park View Motors, was associated with the organisation of the Rally/Pageant for many years. After his passing the NHAEG continued to do so, essentially in his memory and, in fact, the Peter Adnams Memorial Trophy, donated by his wife, Betty, (former Treasurer of the NHAEG and, herself, now sadly passed on), is awarded to the vehicle deemed to be the most deserving. This year that decision will be determined by soliciting the input of each and every participant in the event. We firmly believe that we should continue to be associated with the event and have accordingly, agreed to do so again this year.

Some e-mail and 'snail-mail' publicity has already been sent out to those who may have shown an interest in the past but this notice will hopefully widen awareness of the event. This publicity is reproduced elsewhere and includes an entry form which should be completed and returned to me by any member planning to display their vehicle at the fete.

Reproduction Austin Products Marketing Material

The Austin Seven Clubs Association (A7CA), of which we are an Associated Member Club, has recently commissioned the reproduction of two of the most famous full-colour brochures produced by the marketing department of the Austin Motor Company Ltd in the thirties.

They are entitled "The Austin Seven Comes of Age" and "As I Was Going To St. Ives". Both are excellent documents, extremely authentic-looking and well-copied and of high quality.

The former (Publication 776) has 16 pages and includes a picture of the first Austin Seven two-seater of 1910 plus further detailed information with pictures of the 'Coachbuilt Saloon' (at £130!), the 'Fabric Saloon' (also £130), the 'Seven Tourer' (£122-10-0), the 'Two-Seater Model (£122-10-0) and details of features and specifications.

The second document (Publication 1292) covers later models, the 'Ruby', 'Pearl Cabriolet', 'Nippy Sports Two-Seater', 'Open Road Tourer', 'Two Seater', plus full description of the various features and general specifications of the famous little cars.

These are being offered at a special price to our members of £3.50 and £4.50 respectively for the brochures providing we can generate an order of at least 20 brochures ((any mix). Examples of both were available for inspection at the May Club Night and will be again at the June Club Night. Both can be thoroughly recommended so, should anyone wish to place an order, for either or both, would they please pass their name and details of requirements to me via any of the usual means **soonest**.

Computer 'Surgery'

At various times members have been confronted with a problem on their PC which has been baffling them and they have cast about for words of wisdom from others. On a number of occasions Andy (Seager) has been contacted with forelorn requests for help – remotely! In view of his well-recognised fund of knowledge of IT-related technology he has been able to offer useful assistance in most, if not all, such instances, much to the relief of those in trouble at the time. He has since been prompted to suggest that, if sufficient demand exists, he is willing to run a kind of PC surgery evening dedicated exclusively to those who might wish to learn a little more about the weird and wonderful things going on in their box of tricks and where they can ask questions which have been bothering them.

This proposal has now been translated into a date being set: Monday June 23rd which is not an actual Club Night. A room has been kindly set aside for us by Tim,

our genial landlord at 'The New Inn', Heckfield and Andy and his very able assistant son are all set to dispense words of wisdom and enlightenment commencing at 8.00pm sharp.

Would all those who have already indicated an interest in attending this evening's 'tutorial', plus any other member(s) who might be similarly inclined, get back to me soonest to confirm, but by the June Club Night at the latest.

Many thanks!

Smile – or Groan!

A man had had his fill of marriage and desperately wanted to rid himself of his wife. He heard of a guy called Artie who was some kind of hit-man and performed deadly deeds very cheaply.

He went to Artie and explained his requirement whilst also enquiring what the charge might be. Artie told him he would carry out the act for just £1.00 which, of course, the man found very reasonable.

Artie asked when and how the deed should be performed and how he would recognise the man's wife when he encountered her.

The man said that his wife always went to Tesco's on a Thursday afternoon and always wore a flower on her dress. He further suggested that the man should seize a moment when his wife was near the bank of large freezers and leave her body behind them.

Artie duly went to Tesco's the next Thursday and hung around the freezers patiently until he spotted a woman meeting the description he had been given by the man. At the right moment he grabbed the woman, pulled her behind the freezers and strangled her.

As he was about to leave the scene he was alarmed to see another woman similarly dressed and thought he may have killed the wrong person. He therefore did exactly the same by seizing and strangling the second woman, leaving her body behind the freezers. However, this time he had been spotted by Security who, of course, arrested him and handed him over to the Police.

Next day paper headlines read: **"Artie chokes two for £1.00 at Tesco's!"**

Well, I laughed when I first heard this one!

And finally – A Cautionary Tale.....

'Place knot thigh faith in spell cheques'

Eye halve a spelling chequer
It came with my pea sea,
It plainly marques four my revue
Miss steaks eye kin knot sea.

Eye strike a key and type a word
And weight four it to say
Weather eye am wrong oar write
It shows me strait a weigh.

As soon as a mist ache is maid
It nose bee fore two long
And eye can put the error rite
Its rare lee ever wrong.

Eye have run this poem threw it
I am shore your pleased two no
Its letter perfect awl the weigh
My chequer tolled me sew....
So their!

Have fun and take care!

TREVOR

Don's Doodlings

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it is John Hancock's Austin Seven Box Saloon on the road for the first time in years!!! I know John will be the first to agree, it has been a long time coming but I must say, well worth the wait. Last week, whilst I was driving past Park View Motors I saw John grinning from ear to ear standing by his Austin and waving it's new MoT! Now John is desperate to get as many miles on the clock before the D-Day Run and iron out the few problems which will obviously occur.

Another Austin Seven we hope to see more of this year is Jan Barker's Box Saloon. This car was bought by Jan's late husband John about sixteen years ago. The restoration was carried out by Brian Grant and was finished last year before he moved to Cornwall. Unfortunately, last year, Jan was too busy with other commitments to drive the Austin but this year when it has passed it's MoT, like John Hancock, she needs to get miles on the clock before joining the run to the Cotswolds. I know Jan is looking forward to driving the Austin this year.

Last club night we arrived at our usual time and as Jenny and Peter's Austin was in the car park, we assumed they were in the pub. This was not the case. Peter had taken the Austin to work and on the way home had developed a major fuel blockage. He had left his car in the carpark at The New Inn as it was club night. When Jenny and Peter arrived we found out the problem and it was not long before spanners were under the bonnet and the blockage removed. Unfortunately, this is going to be an ongoing problem as the car had been laid-up for a long time prior to Peter and Jenny's acquisition. The plan is to take off the fuel tank and remove the crud from inside and also fit an inline filter. I am sure this will cure the problem.

On Wednesday 14th May, Brian and Marlene arrived here to stay with us for a week as Beaulieu weekend was upon us once more. On Thursday, Brian and I loaded up the

vehicles ready for the early start at 6 am on Friday. The weather did not look too good when we set off, it was raining. However, believe it or not, by the time we reached Basingstoke on the M3, it was dry and we had no more rain throughout the weekend. This must be a one-off for Beaulieu weekend! We had a great weekend and it was good to see some of our club-members on our stall having a cup of tea. I am sure it was a welcome stopover for them. Whilst Brian and I were working our socks off at Beaulieu, Maureen and Marlene had quite a lot of retail therapy in Camberley and Farnham! I cannot understand how it can be enjoyable visiting clothes shops and cafes when they could have come to Beaulieu with us (not)!

I was told at Beaulieu that the production of copper asbestos head gaskets for the A7 has stopped. If you see one in the future, buy it! It will probably be about £18.

I am looking forward to going to France for the D-Day celebrations. I have given Chummy a serious amount of tlc on the front and back axle, new engine oil and grease all round so she is ready for the off! All I have to do is work out how to get in all of Maureen's suitcases! (Joke! Ouch!)

Let us hope the weather is better this year. Last year it was warm and dry but extremely windy most of the time. If our time in France is half as enjoyable as last year, we will all have a fantastic time.

Finally, the Cotswold trip is taking shape. Maureen and I are going to try the route shortly. One piece of information for those of you who are going, the start has been changed from Pangbourne to Theale but you will receive directions and a map in due course with any other relevant information.

Please do not forget the cheque for £310 final payment date is 9th June.

All the best, Don

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QUERIES OF THE MONTH

This month's selection from the "Austin Magazine & Advocate" covers water leaks and fuel economy. The first explains the replacement of a Welch plug (also known as a core plug), a useful tip for us modern maintainers! The second gives some advice regarding fuel saving techniques during the 1940s. Bearing in mind the rising cost of fuel today some of these techniques might still be useful, however following traffic may not be too happy with point number 10.

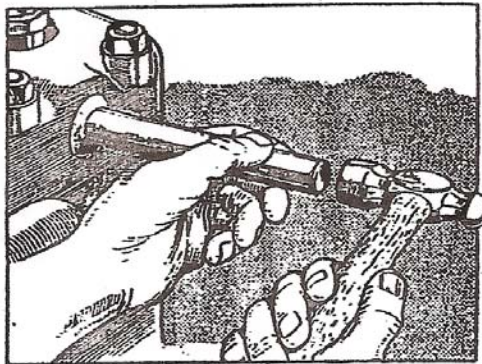
No 855 appeared in March 1938 and No 974 appeared in January 1940.

No. 855 – Water Leak – Austin Twelve

Q. *Can you tell me the correct method for stopping a water leak caused by a loose plug in the casing of my engine? It is nothing very serious but as my car, a latest type Ascot saloon, is still quite new, I should like to have this leak eliminated.*

A. You do not state which Welch plug is causing you trouble. This is important because if the plug on the front of your engine is leaking it will be necessary to remove the radiator and cowl before you can reach it, but if it is on the side of the engine block it may be accessible without any preliminary dismantling. If it is the rear end plug in the cylinder head this will have to be detached before the plug can be attended to.

Before attempting to remove the faulty plug, empty the water out of the radiator and water jacket. Then, with the aid of a hammer and chisel, punch a hole through the centre of the plug. This is not difficult as the metal of which the plug is made is quite thin. By means of this hole it can easily be extracted.



Expanding the convex Welch plug by striking it in the centre with a punch.

The new plug, which can be purchased from any Austin dealer, is concave and when placed in the plug hole (hollow inwards) should be an exact fit. The plug hole should be previously smeared round with one of the usual jointing compositions to ensure a watertight joint. The plug must then be tapped sharply in the centre with a hammer and drift until by expansion it fits securely.

No. 974 – Fuel Economy – Austin Eight

Q. *With the introduction of petrol rationing, I naturally want to take full advantage of my allowance and would like your advice on any further precautions and hints you advise over above those already dealt with in “The Austin Magazine,” in order to ensure that I can expect maximum m.p.g. from my Austin Eight.*

A. The articles in previous issues of the Magazine have dealt with the efficiency of the fuel feed system and an economical driving technique. In a later issue we hope to deal with carburetter tune and you will see that the Zenith Company have recently announced a new carburetter known as the “Ration” type, specially designed for economy during the rationing period, and for which your present carburetter may be exchanged at an agreed price. Obviously with this ration carburetter you must expect a slight decrease in all-round performance but you will get a distinct saving in fuel. The makers of this carburetter also give hints which will materially help to ensure that only just sufficient fuel is used with no unnecessary waste. The following points should be noted:

1. Start the engine and drive away immediately.
2. Dispense with the strangler or starting device as soon as possible.
3. Do everything possible to heat up the engine rapidly and retain the heat (blank off lower half of radiator etc.).
4. Keep in top gear until compelled to drop down.
5. Reduce oil drag to a minimum:-
 - (a) Fill sump, gearbox, etc with light oil
 - (b) Shield sump from cold “under car” air currents
 - (c) Keep engine speed high for first half-mile from cold.
6. Advance ignition as far as possible without causing roughness or pinking
7. Do not hesitate to use the larger jets provided if the need is indicated. Cold weather and “Pool” petrol may make it necessary.
8. Maintain or slightly exceed recommended tyre pressures to reduce rolling resistance.
9. Ensure brakes are not binding.
10. Keep the throttle light. Aim at keeping a steady road speed of 20/30 m.p.h. in top gear.

If you desire to retain the maximum speed which you get with your present standard production type of carburetter, or you intend carrying full loads or run your car in hilly districts, the use of the “Ration” type of carburetter is not advised, for its maximum speed is some 15 miles per hour slower. If you decide to have this type of carburetter fitted and wish to retain your old one, this can be arranged at a reasonable extra charge. Your local Austin dealer will be able to help you in making this exchange or substitution of carburetters.

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

Events Diary Update!

June			
9 th	<i>Club night</i>	Half Gallon Run	Tony and Pat Westhall
21 st /22 nd		Isle of Wight Austin Weekend	Nigel Offer
23 rd		Computer 'Help' evening at New Inn	Andy Seagar
28/29 th		Brooklands Motoring Festival ("Double 12")	
28 th		BEN Run Ascot – Windsor Great Park to BEN Retirement Home Fete, Sunningdale	
29 th		Mid-Summer Meander Mystery Run	Tony Westhall
July			
14 th	<i>Club night</i>	Concourse	
21-25 th		Cotswold Run	Don
August			
3 rd		Picnic in the Paddock	Colin/ Trevor
11 th	<i>Club night</i>	Noggin' and Natter	
September			
5-8 th		Warners – Norton Grange	Trevor
12-14 th		Beaulieu Autojumble	
15 th	<i>Club night</i>	History of Vertical Take-off Aircraft	George
October			
13 th	<i>Club night</i>	"His and Hers" Night	Jean, Ann & Mo
November			
10 th	<i>Club night</i>	Auction	Don
15 th		Nightjar	
December			
1 st		Club Dinner	
8 th	<i>Club night</i>	Festive Fun	

On behalf of the **Finchampstead Fete** committee the NHAEG is pleased to announce that it will be staging the static display of historic and classic vehicles at this bi-annual event, to be held on Saturday July 12th 2008, in the park in Finchampstead village. As someone who has, in the past, either attended or indicated an interest in the Motor 'Pageant', we are contacting you at this time to warmly invite you again. All types of vehicle are welcome. Entrance is **free** and the Peter Adnams Memorial Trophy will be awarded to the vehicle judged to be the 'best'. This year assessment will be based on the opinion of those *actually* participating. Each entrant will have an opportunity to indicate the vehicle which, in his or her opinion, is the most eye-catching, unique, interesting, or, otherwise most desirable and the award presented accordingly to the one attracting most votes.

The Finchampstead Fete is a typical English village, Summer event with all the usual attractions to be found; in short a very pleasant day out for all. *Please* put the date in your diary and, ideally, complete the following short entry form if you would like to enter the Motor Pageant. Please return the form to the Secretary of the NHAEG, details below, **by 1st July**, enclosing an SAE for further details to be forwarded.

Many thanks in advance for your anticipated interest. We look forward to seeing you there when, with any luck, the sun will be shining brightly!

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FINCHAMPSTEAD FETE - 12 July 2008
HISTORIC VEHICLES RALLY

Name.....

Address.....

.....
..... Postcode.....

Tel:.....E-mail.....

Vehicle details: Year:.....

Make.....

Model.....

Reg No.....

Important! 2004 winner please return trophy to the undermentioned, prior to the event, or contact same to arrange collection. Thank you!

Please return form with stamped, addressed envelope to Trevor Edwards (Sec. NHAEG), 55 The Brambles, Crowthorne, Berks. RG45 6EF. Tel: 01344 775012.

