## NORTH HAMPSHIRE AUSTIN ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

## Founded 1974

## Monthly Newsletter and Events Update

Editor Mo Breakspear 01189733568 e-mail address: maureenannmarner@gmail.com

<u>www.nhaeg.org.uk</u>

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

## Mo's Mutterings

I can't believe <u>the club is 40 years old</u>! Well worth celebrating and quite an achievement. I am looking forward to Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June and will be dressed in keeping with the year of my car, as will Don and many other club members I have spoken to when discussing the day.

As Don and Brian (Grant) were at Beaulieu Autojumble the whole of the third weekend in May, Marlene and I decided to spend two day out in Betty Box. The weather was absolutely perfect and Betty Box behaved herself brilliantly. Oh, a couple of bolts fell off my driver's seat and the sun visers kept falling down on Saturday but the engine stayed together! Anyway, on Sunday I took the sun visers off completely and wore my sunglasses and with my weight on the seat it didn't move at all. Just a couple of little jobs for Don to fix next week!



Marlene and myself with Betty Box at Fawley Court and Lady McAlpine's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations.



Rallies are exhausting!



Nice to see you, Noddy!



Me, George (89) and Betty Box (80)!

## **COLINS COMMENTS**

### **April Club Night**

We had a very interesting talk with slides by Richard Scott about last years Peking to Paris Rally in which he competed in a Volvo. This was obviously quite an undertaking both in the preparation and in the event itself and Richard and his co-driver, also called Richard, are

to be congratulated on completing the rally. Richard finished off the evening by showing a film produced by the organisers of the event.

Many thanks to Richard for a very enjoyable evening and also to Trevor for arranging for Richard to come along.

#### **May Club Night**

We had a very amusing quiz at the May club night which had been arranged by John and Joan. We were split into teams of five or six and given sheets with 30 faces of well known people and some not so well known, the idea being to identify them. After a lot of head scratching we were given the results and the winning team comprised of Trevor and Jean, Alan and Myfanwy and George E. Well done to them and many thanks to John and Joan for organising the evening.

#### **Drive It Day**

'Drive it Day' this year was organised by Trevor and Jean with the idea being to go to the National Trust property at Basildon Park, but it would appear they were not that keen for us to attend with our cars as they said they had a lot on that day. Trevor therefore tried Greys Court just north of Henley and they were very welcoming offering us special parking for our cars.

We met at the Wellington Farm Shop and Café where we enjoyed a coffee before setting off, 15 cars in total, on a very pleasant route arriving at Greys Court about midday where we were parked up on a grass area not far from the house. As usual we soon drew attention from other visitors wanting to take pictures and ask questions.

We then spent a very pleasant day visiting the house, which until 2003 was still being lived in and has been left very much as it was then. There were also the gardens to see with the highlight for many being the quite superb Bluebell Woods and I don't think I have ever seen such a magnificent display. The amazing thing was despite a dreadful weather forecast we had very little rain until about 5.00pm when driving home.

A very good day, which I am sure everyone enjoyed as much as Ann and I did, very many thanks to Trevor and Jean for organising it.

#### June Club Night

This month we will be having our annual 'Half Gallon Run' which this year Ann and I will be organising having won last year. We shouldn't have tried so hard! As usual you will be given a simple

route to follow, with two stops to look for answers to questions you will be given. As usual, for those who wish, you can start anytime from **6.30pm onwards** to spread everyone out and allow plenty of time to ensure you are all back before it is dark. There will be a prize for the winners plus the 'Half Gallon Trophy'

#### July Club Night

It has been decided to hold the Coveted Car Evening over to the August club night because a number of members will be away on Don and Maureen's Taunton Experience and Trevor, Jean, Ann and myself will not be able to attend on this night. There will obviously still be a club night and John and Andrew will be looking after things on the night.

## **Events Coming Up**

Upcoming events are the **Woking Hospice Car Show** on the 8<sup>th</sup> June at Mercedes-Benz, Brooklands, details from Julie or Mike. **The Brooklands Double Twelve**, 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup>, June details <a href="https://www.brooklandsmuseum.com">www.brooklandsmuseum.com</a> **The NHAEG 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Run and Lunch** on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June, everyone who has given their names in for this will receive details. The club holiday **'The Taunton Experience'** organised by Don and Maureen is the 10<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> July and the **Club Picnic** is on the 27<sup>th</sup>. This as usual will be held at Finchampstead and will start at midday. If you have not been before and need directions please contact me or Trevor. For details of all events please see the Events and Club Night Diary elsewhere in this newsletter.

#### The Award For A Quick Change Of A Head Gasket

If you ever have a problem with changing a head gasket Trevor E. is the man to see. Whilst navigating for Trevor in the Alvis Inter Register Rally on Easter Saturday and with just 3 miles to the finish, his Austin 10 started making strange noises which at first we thought was a blown exhaust but very quickly, with the noise getting louder and a big loss of power, we decided it must be the head gasket.

We pulled up at the first convenient place along a Sussex country lane and without further ado at the side of the road Trevor got out his tools, removed the dynamo to enable the removal of the head, changed the head gasket, replaced everything and we were back on the road again all within 1½ hours, very impressive. Also impressive as noticed by Pat who along with Tony had come to see if they could be of any help was the fact that Trevor had not got a single mark on his light beige trousers. He was obviously concerned about what Jean would have said if he had.

## **Fawley Hill and Merrist Wood Shows**

Ann and I had intended taking Arabella to both the above shows. Unfortunately, when getting petrol on the Friday Arabella behaved in an alarming way when braking. Every time I applied the brake the nearside front wheel kept locking and releasing with a loud clonking noise and the car pulled violently to the left. After jacking the car up there was nothing obviously wrong, so I decided we would go to both shows in the MX5. To my surprise they allowed us in to the show field and allowed us to park with Trevor and Jean along with Maureen and Marlene and Nick and Pat. They were both enjoyable days with wonderful weather although the Fawley Show was not as well organised as last year

Trevor had emailed Tony Mealing ATDC Technical Advisor with the problem who we also met at Fawley Hill and he reckoned the problem was the knuckle joint brake actuator contained in the axle swivel. Trevor very kindly came round on the following Monday and Tuesday and with his skill and special tools it looks, after a short run, to be ok, will try a longer run soon. We also changed the kingpins while we were at it.

Many thanks Trevor for your invaluable help.

Safe and Happy Motoring.

## Colin.

## 2014 COMMITTEE CONTACTS:

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## 'Famous People' - Take 2

Answers, again, are all famous people, living or deceased, but none are fictitious. Please forward entries to Trevor Edwards, at: 55 The Brambles, Crowthorne. RG45 6EF, by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2014 enclosing £1.00 towards the cost of prize(s).

1. Highwayman and Warwickshire boxer	4, 6
2. Serenaded Berkeley Square	11
3. With a T this Dick could be a pickle!	7
4. Fiery Scottish poet	5
5 . This pop group never gathered moss!	7, 6
6. Was this female film star a cracker?	4, 8
7. Her cookery could not be	6
8. An inebriated musical German friend of 23	6
9. A 'damned' good cleaner	6
10. Suitable Kiwi wet weather gear	10
11. Plymouth pushbike	7
12. Should they be Keyne(s)on this poet	6
13. She was not an insignificant Russian	9
14. Aussie sportsman using small nails?	7
15. Did this 'Bobby' have thick skin?	4
16. A 'Geoff Capes' in biblical times	6
17. Male duck bowled over the Spaniards	5
18. This writer sounds like a disreputable woman!	8
19. These brothers re-tyred to produce Red Guides	8
20. A tiny bird with architectural ability	4
21. A fruity queen	8
22. A Greek competitor to 11 23. An inebriated musical Austrian colleague of 8	8 5
24. His lamp succeeded canaries	4 7
Name(s)	

# **40 Years Of The NHAEG**

As you are all by now aware the NHAEG is 40 years old, an event we will be celebrating on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June with a run and lunch. In the last newsletter we reproduced the first newsletter which was produced in 1975 a year after the club was formed. I thought therefore, it might be interesting to go through some of the old newsletters I have and see what members were up to in the earlier days.

In the November1978 edition are the results of a Childrens' Painting Competition where it is mentioned that there was a large number of entries of a very high standard. In second place of the under 9 years was Jane Breakspear and the winner of the over 9 years was Karen Breakspear. It was also noted that a Booby Prize was presented to a certain Don Breakspear because they thought he had lied about his age, I can't believe that! It was also noted that there was to be a Children's Christmas Party at Mattingley Village Hall, which would include a visit from Father Christmas. How things have changed.

I notice that in the early days they used to have a Ladies Night, in 1980 it was held at the Lismoyne Hotel in Fleet. Is this something the ladies would like to start again? If so, are there any volunteers to organise it?

In the January 1980 newsletter it was mentioned that a Mr D.W. Dean from Winkfield Row wanted to purchase an Austin 7 or 10 for £400-£500. Wouldn't we all like to! In the June 1981 edition there was a 1934 Austin 10 Lichfield for sale at the price of £300. I wonder if Mr Dean had found his car by then. In March 1982 Charlie Couling was selling a 1926 Top Hat. I imagine that this is the one bought from Charlie by Brian Adam who then spent many years restoring it to the beautiful car it is today.

I also note that in the early days there was a Brass Monkey Run on New Year's Day visiting various places. In 1980 they met at Pangbourne and visited Windsor Great Park where they went for a nice long walk. In 1981 members were advised to bring a picnic as there were not many places open on New Year's day. They were obviously a lot hardier in those days although of course much younger as well. Unfortunately, the Breakspears were unable to attend the 1982 run as Maureen had injured herself on New Year's Eve, too much orange juice do you think?

In August 1980, after a disappointing number of members entered an event, Mike Bartlet was bemoaning the fact that although there is a large gathering of members on club nights, when it comes to actually driving their cars in some gentle events it's the same faces, few at that, who turn up. Are your cars as delicate as all that he asks? I am afraid it seems that some things do not change very much.

In 1980 there was a report of the Christmas Dinner and Dance at the Lismoyne Hotel where it was reported that Ma Breakspear, Don's Mum, proposed to the waiter. Having known Ma I can well believe it! It was also noted that Don himself made eyes at the waitress who rewarded him with two helpings of trifle and cream, he also won 1st prize in the raffle, not much change there then!

In July1982 there were two pages of recipes for various jams and marmalades especially for the ladies. In August 1982 there were recipes for various desserts as well as a report on the Austin Seven Diamond Jubilee at Longbridge, which a number of members attended camping over the weekend. Apparently, it was very windy on the Sunday and Pete Flitter nearly lost his tent. In December Don Breakspear, who was then treasurer, reported that subs were going up by £1 to £3 per year.

Unfortunately I have no copies of newsletters from 1983 to 1990, or from 1992 to 2001. I do not know who saved the ones I have as they were passed on to me with a big box of other club things when I became Chairman in 2001.

In the January 1991 newsletter Pete Flitter was advertising his Austin10, 2 Seater with Dickie for £5000, prices were by now starting to rise. He was also selling a Vintage Cattle Trailer, which he towed with the Austin.

In June1991 there was a report by Don on the Spring Rally to Bourton-on-the-Water when we visited the Motor Museum, which had an amazing collection of cars, I wonder if it is still there. I think this was the first run that I had organised which I did with Martin Jordan who now lives in Somerset and we still keep in touch. We also organised a run to the Prescott Hill Climb that year. In October 1991 there was a report on the Autumn Amble, which the NHAEG used to run. I notice in the results that a certain Colin Greig won the award for the best NHAEG member's car in his 1937 Austin 7 Nippy. Twenty-three years ago but it only seems like yesterday.

In May 1992 Alex Woolard and Mick Clover were congratulated for completing a charity run from John O'Groats to Lands End in Alex's Austin 7 and asking those who had sponsored them to come up with the cash, anyone not paid yet? They raised about £2000, covered the 970 miles in 72 hours and 20 minutes and used £101 of petro. What would it cost today? I bet Pete Barlow had to pay a lot more when he did it recently.

That's the last of the old newsletters; the ones from 2001 onwards are recent news so I will leave it at that. I hope you all enjoyed reading about the early days of the club and for the very few who were there then I hope it brought back memories.

I thought I would finish with a few facts about the NHAEG. As far as I know the club has had seven meeting places, the first being 'The Jolly Farmer' in Cliddesden near Basingstoke, which was only used for a short while before moving in 1975 to the 'White Hart' in Sherfield-on Loddon. The next move in 1987 was to 'The Bramley Inn' in Bramley, which is where I joined the club having just bought a 1937 Austin 7 Nippy. This was not a very successful move and a few months later we moved to 'The Wellington Arms' at Stratfield Turgis. We stayed there for a few years until a new landlord made it obvious he did not want our old cars in his car park so a move was made back to Sherfield-on-Loddon this time to 'The Four Horseshoes'. We enjoyed a few years there until a new landlord arrived who was not as accommodating as the previous one so in 2001 we moved again, this time to 'The Coach and Horses' in Rotherwick where we remained for five years. It was a good meeting place but with the constant changing of landlords and the room being a bit small for our increasing numbers it was decided to look for somewhere else. It just happened at this time that Ann and I were having a meal in 'The New Inn' when she noticed an empty room in darkness. I enquired if it was possible to have the room once a month, the answer was yes, so here we have been since March 2006. I believe this is the best meeting place we have had and hope we can remain for many more years.

With regards to members, we still have a few from the very early days. Most of the members who were in the club when I joined in 1987 have moved away, sold their cars, or in some cases sadly died. The only ones remaining from when I joined are Roy Roberts, the longest serving member, Don Breakspear, Brian Adam, Brian Grant and Trevor Mulford.

With forty years behind us here's to the next forty.

## Colin.

Thank you Colin.

Please note Colin's new email address is now: <a href="mailto:cgreig104@gmail.com">cgreig104@gmail.com</a>

Also Don's mobile number is now 07534401853, he lost his old one!



# Swallowfield Show 2014

White House Farm, Spencers Wood, Berkshire, RG7 1HS

Sunday August 24th and Monday 25th 2014

http://www.swallowfieldshow.co.uk

## Classic Vehicles

Closing date for Programme Entry 30th June

# Final closing date 12th August - NO Late Entries on day

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# Secretary's Scribblings

## Ouiz News

The April newsletter quiz, 'Famous People' attracted half a dozen entries, two of them with all 25 clues answered correctly. Prizes were won by and presented to Malcolm and Sandra (Ryley) – really (?) - and Julie (Els) and Mick (Corbett), at the May Club Night. Congratulations to all concerned on achieving a clean sweep! This time around the challenge is more of the same – 'Famous People – Take 2'. Clues to twenty-five famous persons – some alive, some not - but all of them real and not fictitious. This time you have longer to work on the answers; entries do not need to be in until Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August. The July Club Night is likely to be lightly attended since it's anticipated that many members will be away, either on the 'Taunton Experience', or elsewhere.

As per usual, please make sure your entries are submitted in time to reach me by the above date, (together with £1.00 towards prizes), at 55 The Brambles, Crowthorne RG45 6EF.

# NHAEG 40th Anniversary Celebratory Run & Lunch ~ 2014

Everything is now virtually in place for this event, scheduled for Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

The plan is for all those, who have 'signed up' and now paid, to meet up at the 'New Inn' mid-morning, for coffee and then proceed on the run, following a route devised by Colin G., who will be sending out full details, including timing, to everyone involved. Though entirely optional of course, the wearing of period clothing is invited.

En route, we shall be stopping by and 'collecting' our honoured guest, R.J. (Bob) Wyatt, from his home in Wokingham and it's intended to then continue, in procession, the short distance to the Downshire Golf Complex, arriving there at about 12.30 p.m. for a one o'clock lunch, followed by a performance of 'The AA Man'.

# April Club Night

In his *Column*, Colin refers to the presentation, at the April Club Night, which Richard (Scott) gave covering the experiences he and his friend Richard White had whilst competing in last year's gruelling Peking to Paris Rally. This fascinating and absorbing account of the challenges inevitably encountered in an event of such magnitude was much appreciated by those who listened to what he had to say and watched both his video record and the short film subsequently produced by the organisers. Those who didn't missed a really enjoyable evening.

# 39th Nightjar - 15th November 2014

Is it just my imagination but are years getting shorter? Believe it or not, we shall shortly be holding the first meeting of the year to start planning this annual event and will be seeking some assistance, ideally from amongst our members, in staging it. There's a nucleus of loyal stalwarts who volunteer their time year after year to act as marshals but, this year, it's anticipated we shall need to be seeking a few more to fill the need.

If anyone, who maybe hasn't had any involvement or is unfamiliar with the event previously, might be interested in helping out and would like to know a bit more about what it's all about please have a word with either Colin, Don or myself, at a Club Night perhaps, and we'll be happy to acquaint you with the marshal's role.

# <u>Drive | t Day - 2014</u>

A total of 15 assorted vehicles assembled at Wellington Farm Shop café, prior to this year's run on April 27<sup>th</sup>. This image shows just a few of them parked up in a prominent position, in front of Greys Court, the National Trust property near Henley on Thames.



Enjoy the fine weather, while it lasts and trouble-free motoring!

Trevor

# **NHAEG Club Nights and Events Diary**

## <u>Club Nights</u> <u>Arranged by or details from</u>

June 9th Half Gallon Run Colin/Ann

July 14<sup>th</sup> Noggin n' Natter John /Andrew

Aug 11<sup>th</sup> Coveted Car Evening Colin/Trevor

September 8<sup>th</sup> TBA TBA

October 13<sup>th</sup> TBA TBA

November 10<sup>th</sup> Auction Don/Trevor/Colin

December 8<sup>th</sup> Festive Fun Night TBA

## **Lunch meetings 4<sup>th</sup> Monday in the Month (Colin for details)**

May 27<sup>th</sup> The New Inn (Please note this is a Tuesday, Monday is a Bank Holiday)

June 23rd The New Inn

July 28<sup>th</sup> The New Inn

August 26th The New Inn (Please note this is a Tuesday, Monday is a Bank Holiday

September 22<sup>nd</sup> The New Inn

## 13.**Events** Events in **BOLD** are NHAEG

July 10th-15th	Club Holiday in Taunton	Don/Maureen
June 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Classic Car Meeting/White Lion Antiques	www.whitelionantiques.co.uk
June 22nd	40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Run and Lunch	Trevor/Jean/Colin
June 14th-15th	HMS Sultan Summer Show	www.sulton-classic-cars.co.uk
June 14 <sup>th</sup>	Hartley Wintney Festival	Entry forms David Preston 01252 850082
June 14 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup>	Brooklands Double Twelve	www.brooklandsmuseum.com
June 8 <sup>th</sup>	Classic Car Meeting/White Lion Antiques	www.whitelionantiques.co.uk
June 8 <sup>th</sup>	Woking Hospice Car Show, Brooklands/Mercedes-Benz World	Mike Corbett/Julie Els
June 1st	Classic Vehicle Show and Autojumble Queen Elizabeth Country Park, Waterlooville	Details: Dave White 07807 351316
May 31st and 1st June	Days Gone By (Rural Life Centre Tilford)	www.rural-life.org.uk Entry forms Mandy Denning 0118 9734247

July 13 <sup>th</sup>	Classic Car Meeting/White Lion Antiques	www.whitelionantiques.co.uk
July 27 <sup>th</sup>	Club Picnic	Don/Trevor/Colin
Aug 10 <sup>th</sup>	BBQ at John and Joan's	John/Joan
August 24th	Classic Car Meeting/White Lion Antiques	www.whitelionantiques.co.uk
Aug 24th/25th	Swallowfield Show	www.swallowfieldshow.co.uk
August 25 <sup>th</sup>	Littlewick Show	www.littlewickshow.co.uk
October 25 <sup>th</sup>	VSCC Sprint Meeting at Goodwood (free entry for spectators)	www.vscc.co.uk

## Please let me have details of any events that our members might be interested in.

## **Inter-Register Events**

Date	Organising Club	Event	Location
June TBA	Riley	Scatter Rally	Worcestershire
July 27 <sup>th</sup>	STD	Driving Tests + Tour	Hungerford
Aug 30 <sup>th</sup>	Riley	Rally	Thames Valley
Sept 21 <sup>s t</sup>	Crossley	Treasure Hunt	North Yorks
TBA	Riley	Scatter Rally	Scotland
Sept 27 <sup>th</sup>	Alvis	Scatter Rally	Dartmoor
Oct 5 <sup>th</sup>	Humber	Navigation Rally	Dorset
Oct 12 <sup>th</sup>	MGCC	Autumn "Naviscat"	Surry/Sussex
Nov 15 <sup>th</sup>	ATDC/NHAEG	"Nightjar" Scatter/Orienteering	Surry/Hants/Berks

If you would like to enter or know more about any Inter-Register Event please contact me, or Trevor, alternatively visit <a href="www.inter-register.org.uk">www.inter-register.org.uk</a>. These events are good fun; why not join us on one or more of these events.

# Colin

## **QUERIES OF THE MONTH**

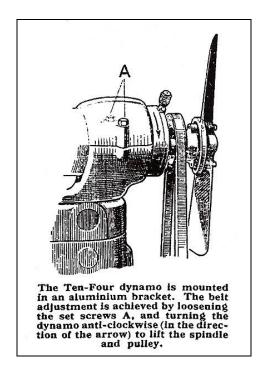
Some more "Queries of the Month", these originally appeared in "The Austin Magazine & Advocate" during the 1930s and 1940s. This month's selection consists of No 531 Fan Adjustment – Austin Ten-Four and No 577 Spare Wheel – Austin Ten-Four.

No 531 appeared in October 1933 and No 577 in April 1934.

## No 531 – Fan Adjustment – Austin Ten-Four

**Q.** Following the first few hundred miles, I am wondering whether I should adjust the fan belt of my Ten-Four Cabriolet as it seems somewhat slack. The instructions in the handbook, however, do not seem to apply to my car, as the bracket does not incorporate three bolts as mentioned (I can only discover two), and the dynamo cannot be lifted as instructed. Your advice as to the correct procedure will be welcome.

**A.** Your car is evidently equipped with the improved dynamo mounting recently introduced. This mounting comprises an aluminium casting, in which the dynamo is held by a top cap secured by two set-screws. As the spindle of the dynamo is out of centre relative to the outer casing, the fan belt adjustment concerning which you inquire is readily achieved by slackening the two set-screws to release the dynamo so that it can be turned in an anti-clockwise direction (as viewed from the front of the car).

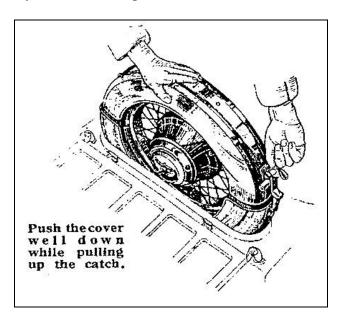


This has the effect of lifting the spindle to increase the fan belt tension. You should note, however, that with the vee form of belt used on the Ten-Four, the belt should not be too tight, or it will wear rapidly through being forced too far into the vee pulleys. The correct adjustment will allow something over an inch of free movement for the belt when pulled away from the pulleys at the point midway between them, but the best test for correct adjustment is the resistance to turning provided by the fan when the engine is not running, as this reveals the grip of the belt.

#### No 577 - Spare Wheel - Austin Ten-Four

**Q.** I have found great difficulty in removing the spare wheel cover on my Ten-Four, as the securing catch cannot be lifted sufficiently to clear the stud on the actual cover. I have overcome this difficulty by removing the block (secured by two set-screws) from the bottom carrier. This allows the wheel to drop free to render removal of the cover quite easy. Before I did this I found it necessary almost to deflate the tyre before the cover could be detached.

**A.** We think you will find that if the tyre pressure is inflated to the correct pressure and is fitted as far down the carrier as possible there will no difficulty in removing the cover, even with the supporting block, to which you refer, left in position.



Your difficulty in the first place probably arose from the tyre being over inflated. Actually, we think you will find that due to the extra movement allowed when the block is removed it will be quite possible for the cover to be detached at the left-hand side even though the catch at the other side is locked, which means that the cover and tyre are no longer thief-proof. It is necessary, of course, when detaching the cover to push it well down by exerting pressure on the top, while lifting the catch to clear the stud. (Note: On models more recent than referred to the above, a cover of slightly different proportions is fitted and no block is used. \_ Ed).

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



This photograph shows how the bodies for the 1935 Morris "8" cars were designed to accommodate four persons in comfort.

I came across this picture in a 1934 car magazine, although not an Austin but a Morris, it shows how the design team tried to get the ergonomics as good as possible. Note how the typical "Morris family" appear to be enjoying themselves! Now I am sure that if it had been an "Austin family" it would be smiles all round!

Some more old advertisements from the 1960s. Hermetite and Stag are still available today but it appears that Gasket Goo is only available in the USA and marketed as Holts Gasket Goo. Still when you have an Austin you only need an old cornflake box and a tin of grease!







Andy Ranson