

NORTH HAMPSHIRE *AUSTIN* ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

Founded 1973

Monthly Newsletter and Events Update

www.nhaeg.org.uk

MAY 2008

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

Mo's Mutterings

Is it really that time again!! Time flies when you are having fun! Don and I have had Harry and Tom, two of our grandsons, staying for two weeks which has been pretty hectic, especially for Don. He has been swinging through the trees with both the boys, at GoApe. This is to be thoroughly recommended for those over the age of 10 who are pretty fit and don't mind heights! I stay firmly on the ground, take photographs and drink coffee in the café with daughter, Karen! Unfortunately, our son-in-law Dorian, couldn't be there as the poor soul was working in Hawaii!!! There was also some quad bike and tractor driving at the farm, pretty scary stuff, good job their mother wasn't watching!

Club night was very enjoyable, it was good to see so many cars at the Spring Airing.

Don and I particularly enjoyed the Drive It Day, a lovely drive organized so well by Ann and Colin, starting with breakfast for those who found it necessary to start the day and ending with a late lunch back at The New Inn. The sun also came out during the course of the Run, which was an added bonus.



A good line up at the start.

They have to do it, don't they???

Secretary's Scribblings

Who found the most "eggs"?

We're delighted and proud to learn that one of our number had marked success competing in the somewhat delayed Easter Egg Hunt this year which took place on Saturday April 5th.

Richard (Scott), in his 1927 Chummy, managed to beat off the best efforts of 12 other (Expert) competitors (and 8 Novice entrants) to come **First** in his class with a score of 31.6 over the 45 miles or so route which was held in the Borden/Farnham/Odiham area.

Our warm congratulations go to him, his daughter Helen, navigator, and her boyfriend David acting as spotter, evidently an invaluable role given the 'busy' nature of the event.

Riley won the team prize, Austins came second and the 750MC team a presumed third, ahead of Alvis, although official confirmation is awaited for this. NHAEG members however, Richard reports, were noticeably thin on the ground, (not to say noticeable by their absence!) in this event. Perhaps more of us might consider entering next year what is reportedly a very enjoyable event.

A Half-Century!

Warmest congratulations are also due to Hazel and Dave (Holland) who, on Saturday 5th April, celebrated a milestone anniversary - their Golden Wedding.

On behalf of members the Club sent flowers (Gold-coloured roses, of course!) and a card, with best wishes from us all.

Cause for such celebration is becoming increasingly rare in this day and age. Carry on the good work Dave and Hazel!

Any takers?

Anyone is looking for a serviceable greenhouse need look no further! Jean has one which she is prepared to pass on, free, 'to a good home'. It is a Hall's product; model 86 and is aluminium-framed, glazed and measures 8 ft by 6 ft.

Also included are two sets of aluminium, double layer staging.

It will be dismantled ready for collection. If anyone *is* interested please give Jean or me a call on 01344 775012.

'Apologies for Absence'

Exceptionally and unfortunately we find ourselves unable to attend a couple of the more significant events in the club's calendar this year; the *'Spring Airing'* April Club Night on the 14th, when it is the custom for us all to try to turn up in our dusted-off and freshly-fettled jalopies to kick off the 'season' and also the *'Drive-It Day'* Run, organised, by Colin once again, for the 20th April.

Though miffed at having to miss both these activities the reason is simple; having to be up at some disgustingly early hour on the 15th to check in at 4:00am at Heathrow (mercifully Terminal 2 and not 5!!) for our flight to Lisbon, before continuing on to Horta, on The Azores, for a 12-day spot of 'island-hopping'.

Needless to report *Scribblings* this month are being prepared well in advance of the *Newsletter* publication date so it is hoped that there will be a good turn-out for the *'Spring Airing'* and that the weather turns kind for the *'DID'* Run.

A Motoring Joke - of sorts! (With apologies to all fair-haired members!)

Two tourists were driving through Wales.

At Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobll-llantysiliogogoch they stopped for lunch and one tourist asked the waitress:

"Before we order, could you please settle an argument for us? Would you please pronounce where we are very slowly?"

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The blonde waitress leaned over closely and said,

"Burr - gurr - Kinnng...."

I'll close on that not very PC note. All being well see you at May's Club Night when, as planned, we should all learn more about Don and Maureen's most recent trip to the Antipodes. By then, with any luck, I'll have coaxed both 'PO' and 'Clarissa' out of their prolonged Winter 'sulk' and got them ready for their annual medical and, of course, the forthcoming trip to France in June.

Till then, safe and troublefree motoring!

Trevor

Everything you wanted to know (about computers) but were afraid to ask!

Having been approached, in the recent past, by a few members experiencing computer-related problems of one sort or another, Andy (Seagar) has come up with a proposal which may well be of interest to a number of us. He has offered to hold a dedicated 'surgery' or tutorial on all such matters, by so doing shedding some light on those idiosyncratic computer issues which irritate, befuddle and often defeat even the best of us.

Initial indications are that his suggestion is likely to be well-received.

Therefore, if you are interested in having things explained in plain language, by someone who will not resort to techno-babble, please let either Andy know direct (on 01256 702886, or e-mail: andyseagar@mac.com) or me, Trevor, on 01344 775012; e-mail trevor_c.edwards@btinternet.com)

The date provisionally chosen for the dedicated evening's exercise is Monday, June 23rd. Note this is *not* a Club Night and we have been promised exclusive use of a conference room at the 'New Inn' by Tim, our landlord, (subject to the room being available).

Please let either Andy, or me, know soonest if you are interested so all details can be confirmed as quickly as possible.

Half Gallon Run.

This will be on the June Club-night and will cover a distance of about 15 miles. You will be able to start when you want from 7 o'clock onwards and need to be back before dark! Please bring a medium sized ice – cream tub or plastic box to put some things in. This fun evening will be a change from the usual treasure – hunt format so be ready for something different!

I am also organising a **Midsummer Meander** on **Sunday June 29**. This will be a treasure hunt type of event and it will start just south of Farnham in Surrey. It is an afternoon event and you will be able to have a pub lunch/dinner or picnic before you start. We will be ending at a place where teas are available in the late afternoon. I will need to know on 01420 87450 if you are coming.

Tony Westhall.

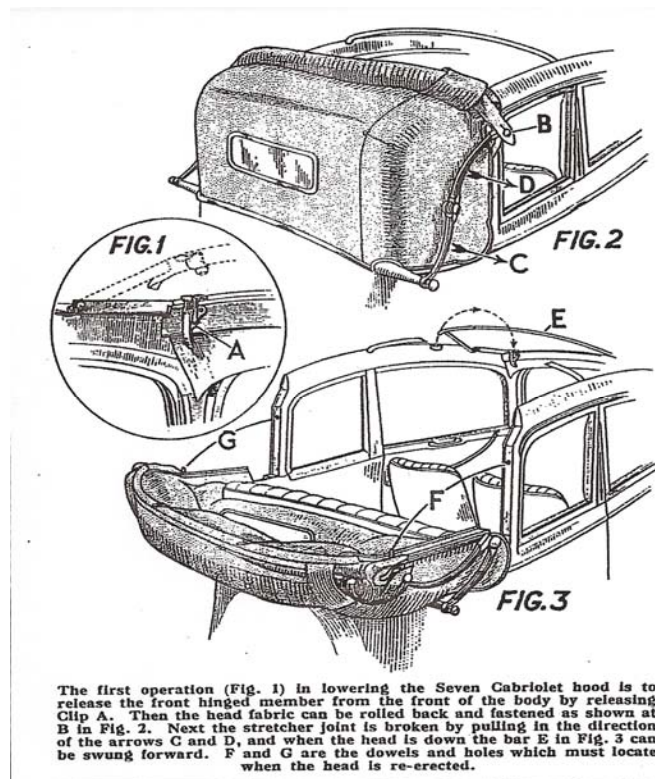
QUERIES OF THE MONTH

Two more from the "Austin Magazine & Advocate". With summer possibly on its way, one for the lucky owners of a Cabriolet. The other, although amusing today was obviously a serious worry in 1942, however, after a gas attack I would have thought the last thing most people would have been concerned about would be their car tyres! Still a good bit advice from the Austin Motor Co Ltd although I would want to use an extremely very long-handled brush!

No 641 appeared in February 1935 and No 1096 appeared in August 1942.

No. 641 - Cabriolet Roof – Austin Seven

Q. *In the handbook supplied with my Cabriolet Seven I can find no reference as to the correct way to raise and lower the fabric roof. So far I have only lowered it once and apparently performed the operation correctly, as it folded down neatly and I was unable to re-erect it without difficulty. All the same I should be grateful if you would oblige me by forwarding the correct instructions, as I naturally do not wish to damage the hood material.*



A. To lower the roof on your Austin Pearl cabriolet the following procedure should be adopted: Release the two fastenings above the windscreen (one is shown at A in Fig. 1) and lift the canopy rod. Then detach the three clips which secure the front bar

on which the fabric is carried. Roll back the fabric as far as it will go, turning the material over and securing the roll (as in Fig. 2) by fastening the loop provided at each side to the top stud of each roof stretcher (as at B). Pull the two arms (C and D) of each roof stretcher in the direction of the arrows to break the joint and fold the rear portion of the hood down. (Fig.3); then swing forward the hinged roof-bar (E), and secure the rear window by its two fasteners to the top of the folded roof member .It should be noted that the roof stretcher joints must not be broken before the front of the roof fabric is released from the canopy rod. Raising the roof is the reversal of the above operations. In lifting the roof members to the door pillars ensure that the locating dowel enters the hole in each pillar (as at F and G in Fig. 3). This roof can be left rolled back at the partially open position shown in Fig. 2 if desired, but it should not be fully or partially lowered while wet.

No. 1096 – Mustard Gas

Q. *I have heard a great deal about the precautions necessary if the Nazis use mustard gas, but no reference to its effect on the car. What happens to the tyres which are now all the more precious since the shortage of rubber?*

A. There is a serious risk of mustard gas or Lewisite where tyres are concerned, as rubber readily absorbs these gases in their liquid form. The substance results, however, if contamination does occur, are not of so much concern in respect of the tyres themselves, as in being a risk to human beings and a means of spreading the contamination. The decontamination of tyres should be promptly undertaken with the usual bleach paste brushed well into the tyre with a long handled brush, and left on for half-an-hour, then being hosed off. A car that has been contaminated and has been treated in this way should not be garaged for some weeks as the tyres should be left to “weather” in the open air to eliminate the last traces of the gas

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

Don’s Doodlings

Just how lucky can we get? Saturday was cold with heavy rain, all day. I must say I was not looking forward to Drive It Day on Sunday! However, Sunday morning was dry and nowhere near as cold, the bitter wind having dropped.

Queenie, our 12/4, was oiled and watered with her England flags fixed to front and back and Maureen and I were ready to go accompanied by Jan Barker and John Chad. We met the others at Henry Street Garden Centre

where Colin had arranged the start of Drive It Day with a full English breakfast if required, before leaving.

Colin worked out a fabulous route and I must say, half the time I did not have a clue where we were. It was lovely to see the bluebells out in the woods along the lanes. The run was approximately 41 miles and we ended up at The New Inn, Heckfield for Sunday lunch.

I know everyone on the run would like to thank Colin and Ann for a great day out.

Would you believe, I had just put Queenie away in the garage and down came the rain! How's that for organization!

Don

FOR SALE

MIG welding set. £200.00.

If anyone is interested, give me a call on 01189733568 and we can have a chat.

Don

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Colins Column

With the weather finally starting to improve its good to get out in Arabella again especially when it's warm enough to have the hood down.

At the April Club Night we had our usual "Spring Airing" when with the lighter evenings members are encouraged to bring their cars out from their winter slumbers. To encourage this we had our normal free draw for all members coming in a pre 1973 car. We had a total of 15 cars including Chris and Brian's newly acquired Austin 7 Pearl Cabriolet, which they did bring to a meeting last year but over the winter it has had a fair amount of work done on it and is now looking very smart indeed.

Once everyone was inside we had our free draw and the winner was Roy (Roberts) who received a Marks & Spencer's voucher for £25.

Our first main event of the year was "Drive it Day" on the 20th April. The idea of the event, suggested by the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs and now in its third year is for all owners of historic vehicles to get their cars out on the road, where they belong.

In the first 2 years of this event we have started at the New Inn and finished up at The Crown in Pishil. This year I thought it would be nice to finish at the New Inn for lunch as they always do very good food. We therefore started at the Henry Street Garden Centre where some of us had breakfast and others spent time looking round the garden centre. We had eleven cars altogether lined up in the car park, which caused a fair amount of interest to other customers. Included in this number was Peter and Jennie's latest acquisition, an Austin 7 box saloon that has replaced their Austin 10. There was a lot of interest in it from other members and I understand that it ran well and Peter and Jennie are very happy with it. As it was so close to St George's Day quite a few cars were patriotically flying the flag.

Obviously it would not take long to drive straight to Heckfield so I devised a route, which took us all round Reading through Twyford, Sonning, Sonning Common, Pangbourne, Bradfield and Mortimer a distance of 41 miles. We set off at 11.30am with everyone arriving at the New Inn between 1.30pm and 2.00pm. Twenty-four of us then sat down for a very good lunch.

We were lucky with the weather although it was a bit misty at the start. I trust you all enjoyed yourselves.

Our May Club Night is on the 12th and Don and Maureen will be telling us about their recent trip to New Zealand with the help of a video. I believe Don may also show us a video of one of our trips to the Isle of Wight. It should be an interesting evening so come along and join in the fun.

In last months newsletter Trevor mentioned that Charlie Couling had come out of hospital and was now in a Nursing Home. Sadly he was only there for a few weeks before passing away.

Charlie had been a member of the club for many years although he had not been to many meetings of late. He did however make it to our Christmas Dinners and joined us at the Crown Inn on last years Drive it Day. Charlie had been in the motor trade all his life, for many years running his own garage in Winnersh where his Austin 16 could always be seen parked outside. He also owned two Morris Post Office vans with consecutive registration numbers and a couple of MGs. He was very knowledgeable about our type of cars and could give advice when it was wanted.

Charlie will be missed and on behalf of all club members I send condolences to his family. The funeral is on Monday 28th April and a number of us will be going in our Austins to pay our respects.

I know it's a little way off yet but if you look at the Events Diary you will see that the September club night is down for the third Monday of the month. This is because on the second Monday many of us will be coming back from our long weekend in the Isle of Wight.

Safe and Happy Motoring.

Colin



What are these two doing? They must have dropped 5p under Peter and Jenny's car!

Events Diary Update!

May				
12 th	Club night	Austins and other things in NZ		Don
17/18th		Beaulieu Autojumble		
June				
9 th	Club night	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	Club night	Concourse		
21-25 th		Cotswold Run		Don
August				
3 rd		Picnic in the Paddock		Colin/ Trevor
11 th	Club night	TBA		
September				
5-8th		Warners – Norton Grange		Trevor
12-14 th		Beaulieu Autojumble		
15 th	Club night	Talk on Testing Equipment		George
October				
13 th		TBA		
November				
10 th		Auction		Don
December				
1 st		Club Dinner		
8 th		Festive Fun		

