

# **NORTH HAMPSHIRE AUSTIN ENTHUSIASTS GROUP**

Founded 1973

## **Monthly Newsletter and Events Update**

[www.nhaeg.org.uk](http://www.nhaeg.org.uk)

NOVEMBER 2009

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

### **Mo's Mutterings**

We have had some really enjoyable and some hilarious outings with the NHAEG during October. At the beginning of the month the Run to Hinton Ampner and overnight stay at The New Inn with "full English" was extremely enjoyable.



As you can see, there were some "fun and frolics" on the Saturday night. (Whoops, how did that get in there Jan and John!!!)

Our thanks must go to our lovely landlady June, landlord Tim and their staff for their kindness in giving us free bed and breakfast.

For your records, Brian Adam now has a new e-mail address, as follows: [brianadam@02.co.uk](mailto:brianadam@02.co.uk)

Also, we have new members:

Eric Mouser from Reading with a 1930 Morris Minor, tel. 01189767621, e-mail

[eric.mouser@nflworldwide.com](mailto:eric.mouser@nflworldwide.com)

And

Jane and Dan Holt at present in Finchampstead staying with Don and I, but will hopefully, be in their own abode by Christmas!!! Tel. 01189733568 e-mail [janebreakspear@aol.com](mailto:janebreakspear@aol.com) and with use of our Chummy.

*Mo*

## **COLIN'S COLUMN**

Those of you with email, which is most members, should have received from Trevor the latest copy of the FBHVC newsletter. On page 4 there is an article about the permitted ethanol content in petrol rising from 5% to 10%. It would seem that a number of difficulties have already been experienced by Federation members, most noticeably in respect of petrol tanks.

Apparently some types of sealing compounds react adversely in the presence of ethanol in the petrol, resulting in sticky deposits being washed through into the fuel system.

The article concludes by saying that it is currently the case that Shell V-Power petrol does not contain ethanol or other similar products (oxygenates) according to Internet fuel specification information. At the time of going to press they are checking this position and whether this will change as a result of the forthcoming UK response to the EU directive. They then say that at present, in the interests of preserving fuel systems, the small extra cost of using this fuel may be justified.

It would be interesting to know if any members have had any experience of using Shell V-Power, if so did it effect the normal running of the car in any way. Please let us know by sending details to Maureen to put in the next newsletter.

I would suggest if you have not already done so that you read the whole of the article. If you did not receive Trevor's email for any reason and would like another copy of the FBHVC newsletter send me an email and I will forward it to you.

### **Night at The New Inn**

Our free Saturday night at 'The New Inn', which I emailed everyone about in July, was a great success thanks to Tim and June's generosity and hospitality. Much to my surprise only ten members took up the offer.

Most of us spent the day at Hinton Ampner a National Trust property near Alresford. Unfortunately the weather was not as good as previous days but at least we did not have any rain. We had been asked to park our cars in front of the house where they attracted quite a lot of attention from other visitors. After coffee we spent most of the morning looking around the very interesting house before going for lunch. The afternoon was spent walking round the lovely gardens followed by tea before setting off for a pleasant drive to The New Inn.

On arrival we booked into our rooms, meeting up again in the bar for pre-dinner drinks at 7.00pm. Tim and June had arranged two tables of ten so we were all able to sit together. It was a very enjoyable evening with excellent company, good food and quite a few bottles of wine and beers as well as a lot of fun and

merriment. The party finally broke up at about 12.30 am. The next morning we all enjoyed a leisurely breakfast before departing for home.

It was a great weekend and I am sure everyone who went enjoyed themselves as much as Ann and I did. I sent an email to Tim and June thanking them for their generosity and wonderful hospitality. They replied that it was a pleasure having us, as we are such a nice group.

### **October Club Night**

I had been looking forward to the October club night for some time as we were lucky enough, thanks to Dave Witton's efforts, to have persuaded Vince Leek to travel over from Warminster to tell us all about his journey from Peking to Paris in an Austin 7.

Vince is well known to most Austin 7 owners as a specialised engineer for these cars. He also likes travelling the world in them, having driven in most of Europe, Argentina, Chile and the USA before making this epic journey from Peking to Paris in 2007, accompanied by two other Austin 7's.

Vince is a very good speaker and with the use of slides he gave us a very interesting and enjoyable evening, which I am sure was appreciated by the large number of members present. Many thanks to Dave for arranging for Vince to visit us.

Should anyone want to know more about the trip there is a web site, which followed their journey from beginning to end and is well worth a visit. It is [www.pekingtoparis.typepad.com](http://www.pekingtoparis.typepad.com) I visited it quite a few times during their journey.

### **November Club Night**

At our November club night we will be holding our annual auction with our very own auctioneer, Don Breakspear. For the benefit of new members you can bring along anything you would like to sell, it does not have to be car related although obviously quite a lot will be. Please remember if you wish to put a reserve price on anything make sure you tell Don, it would probably be a good idea to stick a label on the item, otherwise it will be sold for the best bid.

If you have anything to sell bring it along, the auction is always a lot of fun and who knows you might find just what you need for your car.

### **The Nightjar**

The Nightjar is getting very close now, 21<sup>st</sup> November, so if you are intending to take part you need to get your entries in soon. Remember there is a discounted entry fee for entries received before 6<sup>th</sup> November and final entries must be in by 13<sup>th</sup> November. Entry forms can be downloaded from our web site [www.nhaeg.org.uk](http://www.nhaeg.org.uk) or obtained from Trevor whose contact details are elsewhere in this Newsletter.

That's all for now, see you all at the Auction.

Safe and Happy Motoring.

**Colin**

# Secretary's Scribblings

## Quiz Update

There were six entries for the September Quiz (Counties, etc). There was only one all correct entry though which, this time around, was submitted by Nick and Pat Buchanan. Congratulations to them - obviously a well-travelled couple who clearly are able to recall county names which have long-since gone out of existence.

November's teaser is a little different in format but shouldn't pose too much of a problem for most tackling it. Entries for this one should be forwarded to reach me by December 12<sup>th</sup> at the latest - postal workers willing! Don't forget to enclose £1.00 towards the cost of a prize. Thanks!

\*\*\*\*\*

## Christmas Dinner 2009 - Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December

Menus for this have been forwarded to all those whose names have been handed in and deposits received. I'm still awaiting feedback on the three-course menu choices from a few couples and would appreciate receiving these by November 12<sup>th</sup>. If you never received a menu, or have mislaid the one sent previously, please get back to me and I will forward another copy.

Full payment may be made at any time from hereon, at the November Club Night (9<sup>th</sup>), right up to the date of the Dinner itself, although earlier than this last date would be greatly appreciated. As a reminder the cost of the dinner, per person, is £21.50 and £5.00 per person deposit has already been paid, thus the balance, per person, is **£16.50**. Cheques, as usual, made out to "NHAEG"

\*\*\*\*\*

## December Club Night - NHAEG 'Mastermind'

"John Humphreys" agent has now received two names of contestants willing to spend a little time in the black chair but at least two more volunteers are required to make 'John's' trip to the 'New Inn' worthwhile!

There surely **must** be a couple of members who have a reasonably deep knowledge of some subject or other which they could exercise. Unlike the TV version no timing will be involved (i.e. the customary 2 minutes) for either the Specialist Subject or the General Knowledge rounds; just a number of questions to answer in an unlimited period of time, (within reason, of course, since Tim prefers to close the pub before midnight!)

Please consider taking the plunge and get back to me with name and chosen Specialist Subject soonest. It's just a bit of fun, with the chance to win a coveted award. Humiliation really isn't on the agenda!

("J.H's" Agent: Trevor      01344 775012      trevor\_c.edwards@btinternet.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

## Bletchley Park Trip - Spring 2010

A couple of responses have been received for the proposal to run a trip to Bletchley Park next Spring but, obviously, more interest is required to make it a viable one worth pursuing.

It's not easy thinking about something so far ahead, especially with Christmas not yet come and gone, but it would be helpful if *some* idea of the general level of interest could be gauged at this time. If you would be attracted by a run, in our 'real cars', to Bletchley Park, (of code-breaking fame during WW2), on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April next year, please drop me an email or give me a call. No *firm* commitment at this time needed.

\*\*\*\*\*

## New Trophy

Since just two suggestions have been received in response to the following, printed in October's Newsletter, it's being reproduced once again this month for further consideration. Please give this some thought and give your feedback to me or any Committee member soonest. It's something we would prefer to get sorted out ahead of the New Year. Many thanks!

*" In gratitude for receiving the £500.00 we donated to him earlier in the year, when we met Billy Ness later, in Normandy in June, we were presented, with a splendid, framed citation, in recognition of this fact, prepared by the NVA Parachute Association in the North-East, of which Billy, himself, remains a member. This item was on display at the September Club Night and attracted considerable interest.*

*It's really far too good a gift, though, to be simply left, say, hanging on a wall in the 'New Inn', so the Committee thinks it could and should be adapted and used for some sort of annual trophy or award associated with some event or other.*

*That's the general idea – the more difficult part is to try to come up with something which is sufficiently appropriate, perhaps bearing in mind that it will probably become known as the 'Billy Ness Trophy'.*

*Therefore we're asking all members to try to come up with some idea of what this could possibly be. We already have trophies in place for our annual 'Concours d'Elegance' event and also for the 'Half-Gallon Run' so these are already pretty well catered for.*

*As a few guide lines the trophy potentially should be 'winnable' by any one of our members, not just those who may have a particular model/make of vehicle. It shouldn't necessarily be awarded for perceived good service to the club either – we already have something for that as well.*

*Anyway, please do think about this and let any Committee Member know if you come up with something. All suggestions will be given careful consideration at the next Committee Meeting scheduled for 16 November 2009 - so get thinking!"*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Auction Night ~ 9<sup>th</sup> November

Colin has covered this in his column but it's just worth mentioning, possibly for the benefit of members joining during the year, that, as per normal, 10% of the purchase price paid for items successfully sold during the Auction is retained for Club funds. Obviously, 90% is then returned to the seller.

This year, however, payments for items purchased will be taken on the night itself whilst payout of cash *to* sellers will take place during the Festive Fun Evening or as soon as possible thereafter to those not present on that occasion.

This action is being taken to avoid the inevitable rush and frenzied activity which has generally taken place in the past when payments *and* payouts have been made during the same evening.

\*\*\*\*\*

## 'Nightjar' Navigational Scatter Rally 2009

Echoing Colin's exhortation to get entries for this in soonest, please note that difficulties caused by the postal strikes, which have every sign right now of continuing for some time, may result in a delay in these being received.

If you intend entering – and it's hoped that a greater number of NHAEG members will decide to do so this year – please make every effort to get your entry in soonest.

Exceptionally, emailed entries will be accepted from NHAEG members, with any entry fee being paid at the first available opportunity.

Ditch the TV for once and get the car out for a unique and fun event!

\*\*\*\*\*

*Just a few funnies to complete the page:*

Spotted in a toilet of a London office:

"TOILET OUT OF ORDER. PLEASE USE FLOOR BELOW"

In an office:

"WOULD THE PERSON WHO TOOK THE STEPLADDER YESTERDAY PLEASE BRING IT BACK OR FURTHER STEPS WILL BE TAKEN"

On a repair shop door:

"WE CAN REPAIR ANYTHING. (PLEASE KNOCK HARD ON THE DOOR - THE BELL DOESN'T WORK)"

In another office:

"AFTER TEA BREAK STAFF SHOULD EMPTY THE TEAPOT AND STAND UPSIDE DOWN ON THE DRAINING BOARD"

Outside a second-hand shop:

"WE EXCHANGE ANYTHING - BICYCLES, WASHING MACHINES, ETC., WHY NOT BRING YOUR WIFE ALONG FOR A PLEASANT SURPRISE?" and finally....

Notice in a farmer's field:

"THE FARMER ALLOWS WALKERS TO CROSS THE FIELD FOR FREE, BUT THE BULL CHARGES!"

***Take care, safe driving and see you at the Auction Night***

*Trevor*

## MABEL'S STORY

My first introduction to the NHAEG was when Trevor Edwards came along with me to look at a rather dilapidated RN saloon in Weybridge in early 2005. Although we had already bought Molly, the '32 tourer, the RN was advertised for sale in the A7OC magazine and this had caught my eye as I rather fancied a light restoration project. Karen and I went to look at the car at first, but not having done any serious A7 tinkering since my Ruby days nearly 40 years previously, I felt more comfortable having a second opinion, both on condition and value. That is where Trevor comes in, as he offered to come along and cast a critical eye and pass judgement.

The vendor, Mark Langford, was a real gent and we seemed to get along right from the start. He was an ex Fleet Air Arm pilot and in his retirement, ran a business dealing in helicopter sales and leasing so we both had common professional interests and spent a good time talking about everything aviation. He had bought the Austin Seven some years previously, intending to restore it to its former glory but found that he didn't have the time. The last MOT had expired in 2001.

It was soon apparent that there was no chance of starting the old girl. Both the petrol tank and radiator were as dry as a bone and the petrol tap came off in Trevor's hand. The headlining had been almost completely devoured by mice so the advertisement in the magazine which said...*"needs new headlining...."* was an understatement to say the least! The exterior of the engine looked in a sorry state with a missing core plug or two and was clearly in need of more than a little light commissioning.



*The edible headlining on the left, and the state of the engine on the right*

I left Mark in no doubt that he was highly optimistic in his asking price bearing in mind the condition, but we left it at that whilst I went home to mull it over. There was also the question of where to put the car since our garage at home was already fully occupied with Molly and the Mog. Karen came up with the idea that the car could be kept at her Grandmother's in Poole since she did not use her garage and then my brain went in to overdrive.

I rang Mark that evening to let him know what I was prepared to pay for the car. Since this was less than half of what he was asking, I was quite frank with him that my offer was based purely on what I thought it would cost me to bring the car back to roadworthy condition. I assured him that I was not trying to pull a fast one. I think he already knew this and we struck a deal. It was an amicable arrangement, so much so that he said he would sell it to me on one condition – which was that when the car was eventually roadworthy, we would drive together in the car to his local pub to celebrate! Naturally, I needed no persuading.

I arranged for a recovery firm to collect the car and we duly met in Weybridge to supervise the loading. Mark asked where we were taking the car and Karen replied that "Mabel is going to my Grandmother's house in Dorset" Mark thought it was hysterical that we were already referring to the car as "Mabel" !



*Mabel arrives at her new home in Dorset*

Once the car had arrived in Dorset, there then began a long process of dismantling which involved much commuting to Poole in a car loaded to the gunwales with tools. Karen's grandmother enjoyed the company and supplied endless cups of tea whilst I toiled in the garage. Mark and I regularly corresponded and exchanged phone calls and I was amused to find that he too, without thinking, referred to the car as Mabel – as if that had always been her name!

The immediate tasks were identified as engine removal for inspection and repairs as required and a complete rewire. Almost all of the front axle components required overhaul. Secondary tasks were the replacement of the headlining and recovering of the seats – the drivers' seat back was broken. The body/paintwork was not perfect but would have to do.

Even though I was more anxious to get the car back on the road than to worry about originality or appearance, the whole process still took over 14 months. The engine valves, seats and guides were renewed. Everything else was cleaned, inspected, and reinstalled 'as is'. The inactive dynamo was sent to Dave Lindsley for overhaul. With hindsight, although he did a good job, this was a mistake as it cost a small fortune.

A local trimmer, Parkstone Trimming, recovered the front and rear seats to a high standard and repaired the driver's seat in the process. The offside rear window was cracked and this was replaced by a second hand window from Tony Betts. I carefully removed what was left of the original headlining and this gave me an insight in to how it was made and fastened. I bought some headlining material from Woollies and Mick's Julie came round one evening with her sewing machine and sewed up the material on the dining room table according to my measurements. The result was a perfect fit even if I do say so myself!

From an appearance point of view, I decided to have the radiator shell re-chromed (are you listening Andy?) which Mac Bonar arranged through a contact of his for £80.

The day finally arrived for her MOT and she was driven for the first time in April 2006 to a local MOT station round the corner. With some minor teething troubles such as a much too fast engine tick over, she passed her MOT without fuss and I returned to Karen and her Grandmother's house with a triumphant toot on the Rist.

Soon after, and when I had found a garage to rent, I drove Mabel to Farnham so we could use her more frequently. I think her Grandmother was almost sorry to see her go but Mabel tackled the run to Farnham with gusto. The only niggle was vibration from the carden U/J which I eventually traced as caused by the giant jubilee clip that was retaining the rubber boot. This was enough to send the prop shaft out of balance and was replaced by a cable tie. I photographed Mabel in her restored glory in front of the house and even had a set of postage stamps made which incorporated the picture of Mabel thereon. Mark was delighted when he received a letter from me with Mabel on the postage stamp!





*Mabel is reborn and photographed for a set of stamps in 2006*

As the time passed, I continued to keep in touch with Mark who was delighted to hear that Mabel was once more back on the road. Nevertheless, arranging the promised ride to the pub was frequently thwarted by his commitments, or mine. However I was determined not to forget this undertaking I gave to Mark.

One day in 2008, Karen and I returned from a holiday to the usual mountain of mail on the doormat and the usual drudgery of opening bills began. Amongst the mail was a letter with handwriting on the envelope that I did not recognise. It was a letter from Mark's wife who informed me that Mark had tragically died as a result of a terrible accident at home. She had been sorting through his things and traced me through my letters to him updating him on Mabel's progress.

This was a terrible shock and I began to torment myself for not being proactive enough in fulfilling my promise to Mark. Now it was too late. His widow, Jane, said that Mark was always delighted to get my letters informing him of Mabel's progress. She was also upset that whilst she was sorting through his papers, she had accidentally torn the 'Mabel' stamp that was on one of the letters I had sent to Mark and asked if, by any chance, I had another. I had just one left and immediately sent it to her as a keepsake. Every time we are out in Mabel, I can still hear him chuckling outside his garage when he first heard Karen refer to her as "*Mabel*"

Rest in Peace Mark.

### Don's Doodlings

After the Nightjar most of our little treasures will be wrapped up in the warm for the winter. When I say little treasures I mean the Austins not 'er indoors.

Every year I do seem to say the same thing with regard to draining the radiator. If your car is stored in a cold garage or outside, I recommend you keep the radiator full with antifreeze mix and do not drain the water out as this will make it fur- up over the winter period if left with no water.

I enjoyed Vince Leek's talk very much. On reflection, it makes our club runs to the Isle of Wight, Cricket St. Thomas, Gloucester etc. look like a trip to the local shops. It is quite incredible that with the punishment the whole car must have taken over the 47 days, not one suffered any breakdowns.

Finally, November club night is **Auction Night, PLEASE, PLEASE BRING ALONG** all the things you do not require any more. For instance the present you had two of may be just the thing someone else may need. Of course, bring as many car parts as you can. All items can carry a reserve if you wish. Let's have a record sale so Dave Holland has to go out and buy a new shed!

Don

**The Big Breakfast Run 2009 – 6<sup>th</sup> December 2009**

*Back by popular demand, this year's Big Breakfast Run will again start at The Hut (formerly The West Meon Hut) situated at the intersection of the A32/A272, to be followed by a short run to Hinton Ampner House where we have arranged parking at the front of the house.*

*We have checked with The Hut and the big breakfast still presents fantastic value at £4.95.*

*The proposed itinerary for the day is as follows: -*

*Meet at The Hut from 9.30 am onwards for breakfast.*

*Hinton Ampner is open from 11 to 4 and for those wishing to take part in the short run (approx. 11 miles) we propose leaving The Hut at around 10.30am.*

*Please support us and come along and enjoy the garden in winter and see this elegant house decorated for Christmas and by all means decorate your cars too!*

*If you wish to take part can you please contact us - Hinton Ampner have asked for some idea of how many cars are likely to turn up.*

*Please contact Trevor Wild – Tel: 02392 570183 or email [twild@talktalk.net](mailto:twild@talktalk.net)*

## Committee Nominations 2010

*It's that time of the year, once again, when some thought needs to be given to the issue of Committee members for the next year.*

*Contained within December's Newsletter, as per custom, will be a Committee Nomination Form which members are invited to complete for their choice of candidates to go onto the Ballot Form used to vote at the AGM, on January 11th 2010.*

*However, before that, please give some serious consideration to whether you, or someone within the club (with his or her permission, of course), would be willing to serve on the Committee in 2010.*

*We go through this same exercise each year and each year it's rather like pulling teeth to get members to put themselves forward. Obviously there are several reasons for this which are well-recognised. However, if you feel comfortable to do so and would like to contribute tangibly to the running of the club, please do take the plunge and append your name to the Nomination Form when it comes out next month.*

### 2009 COMMITTEE CONTACTS:

Chairman:	Colin Greig	01189782087 ( <a href="mailto:colin@greigc.freeseve.co.uk">colin@greigc.freeseve.co.uk</a> )
Secretary:	Trevor Edwards	01344775012 ( <a href="mailto:trevor_c.edwards@btinternet.com">trevor_c.edwards@btinternet.com</a> )
Treasurer:	Jean Edwards	01344775012 ( <a href="mailto:trevor_c.edwards@btinternet.com">trevor_c.edwards@btinternet.com</a> )
Editor	Mo Breakspear	01189733568 ( <a href="mailto:maureenbreakspear@yahoo.co.uk">maureenbreakspear@yahoo.co.uk</a> )
Committee:	Don Breakspear	01189733568 ( <a href="mailto:maureenbreakspear@yahoo.co.uk">maureenbreakspear@yahoo.co.uk</a> )
	Dave Witton	01252333465 ( <a href="mailto:david.witton@btinternet.com">david.witton@btinternet.com</a> )
	Karen Witton	01252333465 ( <a href="mailto:karen.witton@kpmg.co.uk">karen.witton@kpmg.co.uk</a> )
	John Hancock	01189885387 ( <a href="mailto:route66_2003@hotmail.com">route66_2003@hotmail.com</a> )

**CLUB NIGHT & EVENTS DIARY/UPDATE**

**NOVEMBER**      Auction Night  
**9<sup>th</sup>**  
**21<sup>st</sup>**              Nightjar Navigational Scatter  
Rally

**DECEMBER**

**8<sup>th</sup>**                  Christmas Dinner at  
Downshire Golf Complex

**14<sup>th</sup>**                Festive Fun Evening

**20<sup>th</sup>**                Carols by Candlelight Royal  
Albert Hall

**JANUARY**  
**2010**              AGM

**February**              Feely Bags  
**Club Night**

**March**                Possible talk on Submarines  
**Club Night**

## September Quiz

### 'N is for November - and other stuff'

Answers are words beginning with the letter 'N'. Some are proper nouns (names of countries, people etc); others are simply words in common usage (nouns, adjectives, and such like).

Some clues are pretty straightforward; others are more cryptic.

1. "No, Robert" in India                                    \_ \_ \_ \_ \_                                   (5)
2. Doomed DH110 jet piloting Duke                   \_ \_ \_ \_ \_                                   (7)
3. Not an old fortification                              \_ \_ \_ \_ \_                                   (9)
4. Peter & Michael lived here                         \_ \_ \_ \_ \_                                   (5, 5, 4)
5. Female relative from S of France?                 \_ \_ \_ \_ \_                                   (5)
6. A 5c cinema?   \_ \_ \_ \_ \_                                   (11)
7. Countries at the rear                                 \_ \_ \_ \_ \_                                   (11)
8. Sinless   \_ \_ \_ \_ \_                                   (6)
9. Keeping it in the family                             \_ \_ \_ \_ \_                                   (8)
10. "No! It's black and white"                         \_ \_ \_ \_ \_                                   (8)
11. The weapon turns into a cosy home               \_ \_ \_ \_ \_                                   (4)
12. Recently discovered country                       \_ \_ \_ \_ \_                                   (12)
13. Evening attire                                       \_ \_ \_ \_ \_                                   (10)
14. Cubed root of 729                                   \_ \_ \_   (4)
15. He's Mr. Dynamite!                                 \_ \_ \_ \_ \_                                   (5)
16. Could be a titled cow, though!                   \_ \_ \_ \_ \_                                   (5)
17. Cranium lacking feeling                           \_ \_ \_ \_ \_                                   (8)
18. A fabric 'twixt New York and London             \_ \_ \_ \_ \_                                   (5)
19. Justice, fate   \_ \_ \_ \_ \_                                   (7)
20. An annual bird                                      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_                                   (8)

As usual, please forward completed entries, together with £1.00 (towards prizes), to:  
Trevor Edwards, 55 The Brambles, Crowthorne. RG45 6EF, by 12 December '09