

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

www.nhaeg.org.uk

October 2007

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

Hold the Front Page!!!

Word has just been received, from Eamonn Galligan, organiser of the Ben to Brooklands Rally (a.k.a. the "B2B Run"), that, so far, it has attracted considerably fewer participants than was the case at the baptismal run two years ago. Accordingly, the Closing Date has been extended from the 21st September and he has requested us, and other clubs in the area, to put the word about and scout around to see if there is anyone out there who, perhaps, was unaware of the event or, if they were, if second thoughts might be given as to whether to enter or not.

If you haven't yet been on this run, it is a lot of fun and takes in a some 50 miles or so of pleasant Berkshire and Surrey countryside between Lynwood, the BEN (Motor Trades Benevolent Society) Retirement Home in Sunninghill, near Ascot, the starting point and its destination, the historic Brooklands site near Weybridge, Surrey.

The date is Sunday, 21st October, assembling from 9:00am onwards, with a breakfast meal provided at Lynwood prior to the start, commencing at 10:15am. The purpose of the Run is to raise funds for the BEN charity itself.

Further details and Entry Forms are obtainable either from Eamonn Galligan himself, on 01344 620191, or I have a small quantity for distribution also. My number is 01344 775012.

Please do consider this event which is probably one of the last events of the year in the 'real car motoring' calendar.

Trevor Edwards

Mo's Mutterings



Many thanks to John Lockyer for sending in these lovely photos taken at Littlewick Green Show on August 17th. They just missed the last newsletter.

We have had some fun over the last month with the quiz organised by Joan and John and the Picnic in the Paddock.

We are already looking forward to events due to take place in 2008. This is not “wishing our lives away” but doing as much as we can, enjoying the good company of our friends and viewing the lovely countryside from our Austins, whilst we are able! Don and I find that half the fun is in the planning!

For the rest of this year, after our holiday in Dubai, we have the B2B Run, the Auction, the Nightjar and the Christmas celebrations to enjoy. Sometimes life is very busy but we wouldn't really have it any other way.



Believe it or not, this is what the “boys” get up to at Beaulieu!

The “lady” in question is called Mandy.

Picnic in the Paddock

Driving Test Winners



The Winners!!!

Father and son team, John and Tim Hancock, having been presented with their cup and wine, by Don Breakspear.

COLIN'S COLUMN *September Club Night*

At our September club night we had a quiz arranged by Joan and John (Hancock) and a great number of members turned up for it (over 40), including three new ones who were very welcome.

The first part of the evening, as usual, for most of the men and a few of the ladies, was spent in the car park looking at and talking about the 20 or so Austins parked there. Of special interest were the new members cars, the Austin 7 Ruby of Keith Hicks, the 1932 Austin 10 of Peter and Jackie Appleford and the 1928 Austin 12 of Malcolm Pontin. All of them looked splendid and we hope to see them at future club nights and events. We also had a 1947 Austin 16 belonging to Les and Mary who hopefully will have enjoyed the evening and will come again and join the club.

With everyone back inside John started the quiz. It was done in pairs and in the first part all the answers were London Underground stations. As a young boy living in London in the early part of the 1950's I could have told you all the stations on the system but nowadays not having travelled on the underground for many years I can remember very few of them. As a result Ann and I did not do too well, but Malcolm and Sandra (Ryley) obviously knew the stations because they won and received a bottle of wine.

The second part of the quiz was all about transport, some of the questions were fairly easy but there were some, which were not. There were a few where I should have known the answers but just could not think of them. With the scores added up our experts on transport turned out to be Mike (Baldwin) and Andy (Seager) who also received a bottle of wine.

Well done to all the winners and a big thank you to John and Joan for organising the evening.

Picnic in the Paddock

Because of the continuous rain in what was supposed to be our summer we had to postpone our Picnic from the usual date at the end of July because the ground was so wet. The new date of the 16th September thankfully turned out to be a dry day and although it was not quite as warm as it would normally be in July it was non-the-less a very successful day. As usual it was held in Finchampstead on the land belonging to Ray and Ian Adnams who very generously allow us to use it each year.

It is quite a large piece of land, which the children made the most of running around and playing various games. There is also plenty of room for some driving tests, which Don (Breakspear) always arranges for us and as usual were a lot of fun. There were four tests altogether including one which involves the driver having a bucket on his head so as not to see where he is going and relying on the navigator's instructions to complete the course, which also involves some reversing. All good fun, although it is very strange trying to drive a car when you can't see where you are going.

With the tests over we left Don to work out the scores while we drew the raffle, by which time he was ready with the results. In third place was Mike (Corbet) with Julie (Els) as navigator, in second place was John (Hancock) with son Tim as navigator and the winner was Tim (Hancock) who had Dad John as navigator. The winners received two bottles of wine and a cup. Well done to them and everyone else who took part.

So ended a very enjoyable day. Many thanks to Don and all those who helped him with the Driving Tests. A big thank you also to Ray and Ian for again allowing us to use their field and the toilet facilities at their garage, it is very much appreciated. .

October Club Night

Our October club night looks interesting; we are going to have a talk by Julie (Els) on her experiences living in Zimbabwe. With all the media coverage of Zimbabwe at the moment it will be an opportunity to hear what it is really like to live there under President Mugabe. Come along and listen to what Julie has to say.

Coming Events

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see that we have finalised details for the Christmas Dinner and also for our weekend away for next year. Trevor needs to know fairly soon who is going to both events so please remember what I asked in last month's newsletter and get your names and money to him ASAP. In any event, by the final date he gives, otherwise it causes Trevor a lot of unnecessary work. Remember it is not enough just to email your name to him, he needs the money as well. We have to pay the restaurant in advance for the Christmas Dinner and we have to pay a deposit to Warners when we make the booking. If you will not be at the October meeting then you will need to post your cheque to him. Why not do it now, then you will not miss out on either of these excellent events.

B2B Run

It would appear that quite a number of NHAEG members will be going on the B2B Run on October 21st. to raise funds for BEN and also the Brooklands Museum. Lets hope we get some good weather for it. Details on the run were in last month's newsletter and I gave out some entry forms at the last meeting. Entries are limited to 100 cars so if you have not sent your entry form off yet I would suggest you do so now so as not to be disappointed. If you do not have an entry form and would like one then ring Gillian Freeman at BEN on 01344 620191.

Nightjar

The Nightjar is on the 17th November this year and with this newsletter you should receive the regs and entry form. This is the 32nd year of this national event which has always been run by the NHAEG and we usually have a very good entry with competitors coming from as far away as Somerset and Essex. What we have not had recently for some reason is many entries from NHAEG members, which is a pity. It is a great event and a lot of fun, I have entered many times in the past and although I never did very well I always enjoyed the event.

If you have never entered why not give it a try, it would be nice to see a few more NHAEG members taking part particularly as we now have the 'Valentine Breakspear Memorial Trophy' for the best performance by a NHAEG member, which will have the winners name engraved on it each year. If you would like to know more about it have a chat with someone who has been on it before such as Dave Holland who entered for the first time last year or Tony Westhall who has competed for a number of years, alternatively myself or Trevor Edwards who has also competed. In any event please give it some thought, if you enter this year and do not enjoy it next year you could help by being a marshal although I suspect if you do enter you will get hooked on it and want to do it every year.

Safe and Happy Motoring.

Colin

NB Please note your records, Ron Sheldon has a new email address as follows:-

sheldon.ronald@googlemail.com

Secretary's Scribblings

Just a couple of items this month – but both *needing your close attention!*

Club Christmas Dinner – 2007

As previously announced the Club Christmas Dinner this year is scheduled for Monday 3rd December. The question as to where it should be held has exercised the committee a little since, as many must be aware, there has been a quite noticeable increase in club membership taking place recently and finding a venue able to cope with the anticipated number of members wishing to attend the event has been an important consideration.

In the past couple of years it has been necessary to operate a 'First come, First served' policy because of limited capacity at 'The Falcon', Rotherwick where we have held the dinner. This year we have contacted 'The Falcon' again but have decided against doing so this year for a number of reasons.

Firstly the establishment appears to be under new management and initial impressions, unfortunately, have not been especially favourable. More significantly, though, the cost of just a two-course menu has been set at a fairly hefty £21.95, whilst a three course menu has increased to £25.95! Perhaps, most importantly though, the necessity, due to limited capacity of 'The Falcon', to restrict numbers is felt to be a little unfair and a venue able to avoid this has been a key factor in the search for somewhere suitable.

At the same time we have also been in touch with 'The Longbridge Mill' at Sherfield on Loddon. Many members may recall we held our Christmas Dinner there a few years ago and the experience was not a great one! The location and ambience was fine but the food was less so. Why, you may well ask, would we consider returning there this year?

Well - the place is under completely new management; it is now a *Brewers Fayre* restaurant which, generally, are sources of good food and service. Nevertheless, it has been made crystal clear to the management that, should we choose to patronize the establishment again, our previous experience is one we certainly would not wish to be repeated and we do have an assurance on this point. We will be seated in a large area upstairs, adjacent to ancient milling machinery, which has now been restored to a fully functioning condition. Although milling will not actually be taking place during our meal, the machinery will be fully visible and access to it may be possible which makes for added interest to an already attractive environment fully capable of accommodating as many club members and their partners as may wish to attend.

The four-course meal is priced at **£14.99** which, being so reasonable, will not (as has been the case in previous years) be subsidized out of club funds. Elsewhere in this Newsletter is the Menu for your perusal, together with a Reservation and Menu Choices form.

If you wish to participate in this years Christmas Dinner, please complete the form and return it to me by 16th October at the latest, together with a deposit of £5.00 per person or, if you prefer, for the full amount of £14.99 per person. Please note that this dead-line has to be firm and a

decision, therefore, is required promptly from those wishing to attend the Festive Dinner at The Longbridge Mill on December 3rd.

(What an appropriate name, incidentally, for a venue for *our* particular club's function!)

Excursion 2008

Those of you who attended the last Club Night on September 10th (John & Joan's Quiz Night) will be aware that a 'straw poll' taken then gave a fairly clear indication that, so far as next year's excursion is concerned, no strong preference existed for either Norton Grange or Bembridge (both Isle of Wight Warner establishments) although most favoured a departure from our usual May timing and chose September as an alternative month for the trip. It was quite apparent that, although there was keen interest in a trip *somewhere*, most didn't seem to mind about the *actual* destination.

Accordingly, a booking has been made *provisionally* for a nominal group of 30 at Norton Grange, near Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, for the long week-end September 5–8 2008. However, this number is a pure guess in the dark simply to secure accommodation before it might suddenly become unavailable. Therefore, if you would like to join the jaunt 'across the water' next year I would ask you to please get back to me soonest but, again, and in any event, ***by October 16th*** confirming your intention of doing so.

The discounted cost of the three-nights, four days trip, half-board is confirmed at **£129.00 per person**. Ferry fares next year have increased over last year's costs; they now are **£35.00 per car with one, two or three occupants and free for vehicles with four occupants**.

The price quoted is for normal chalet accommodation although a limited number of Premier Chalets, having a little more space and 'superior' décor, are available at an extra £15.00 per room per night. If you would prefer such accommodation please mention this.

Please don't delay contacting me using the form included with this Newsletter. Please complete as indicated with your preferences, and return it to me together with a deposit of **£30.00 per person by October 16th**

Once again, can I ask you please to act promptly on both the above issues. There can, unfortunately, be **no** exceptions, once the mentioned dead-line date has passed!

See you at the next Club Night, which should prove very interesting hearing, first-hand, from Julie (EIs), what life's really like living under Robert Mugabe's infamous regime. Meanwhile, Take care and safe travels!

TREVOR

P.S. Jean and I have 'de-camped' temporarily to alternative accommodation whilst the dry-out process and (hopefully soon!) renovation activities take place at our normal abode. However, our telephone number and e-mail address remain the same:

01344 775012 and trevor_c.edwards@btinternet.com should you need to get in touch on any issue.

Christmas Dinner Menu – December 2007

Starters

- Garlic & Herb Mushrooms served with garlic mayonnaise & BBQ Dips
- Pork & Bacon Pate with Bramley Apple, Ginger & Raisin Chutney served with rusticata bread
- Prawn Cocktail - served with salad leaves & brown bread & butter
- Soup of the Day - served with rusticata bread
- (Note: flavour is not specified at this time, but *is* Vegetarian option)

Main Course

- Hand carved Turkey & Wiltshire Honey Roast Ham**
served with sausage & herb stuffing, sausage wrapped in bacon, new & roast potatoes, Brussels sprouts, Yorkshire pudding & cranberry sauce
- Grilled chicken Breast with Roast Onion, Bacon & Tarragon Sauce** served with Dauphinoise potatoes
- Braised Pork with Dijonnaise Sauce** served with mashed potato
- Fillet of Salmon with a Honey & Dill Sauce** served with new potatoes & a wedge of lemon

- Vegetarian Option** Selected from the current menu of vegetarian dishes, e.g. Spinach & Butternut Squash Canneloni; 3 Cheese Linguini; Butternut Squash Linguini; Mozzarella & Sun-dried Tomato Burger; etc.

All main courses are served with carrots and fine beans

Desserts

- Christmas Pudding, served with brandy sauce or custard
- Chocolate Torte, served with fresh strawberries & cream
- Vanilla flavoured Ice Cream
- Stilton, Brie & Mature Cheddar Cheeses
served with butter, biscuits & half a red apple.

Coffee or Tea

Christmas Dinner 2007 - Reservation Form

Enter names and choices below and return form to:
Trevor Edwards, 55 The Brambles, Bramley Grove, Crowthorne. Berks. RG45 6EF
together with a deposit of £5.00 per person, *or* total cost of £14.99 per person
by 16th October 2007 please. Cheques made payable to "NHAEG" please.

Name (1).....

Starter.....

Main.....

Dessert.....

Name (2).....

Starter.....

Main.....

Dessert.....

NHAEG Excursion - 5-8 September 2008

Reservation Form

Yes, I/we would like to participate in next year's excursion to the Norton Grange (Warner Breaks for Adults) establishment on the Isle of Wight. It is understood that the discounted cost for this is **£129.00 per person** for the four-day / three nights trip, with half-board, plus the subsidized cost of the ferry fare which will be **£35.00** for vehicles occupied by one, two or three persons. Free for those with four occupants.

I/we enclose cheque to cover the deposit(s) of £30.00 per person and understand that the balance will become due in June 2008.

Name

(1).....

Name

(2).....

Preferred accommodation (please delete as necessary):

Chalet type: **Ambassador (standard) / Premium ***

Non-smoking: **Yes /No**

Room type: **Double / Twin / Single**

Please return this form duly completed to:

Trevor Edwards
55 The Brambles, Bramley Grove, Crowthorne. Berks. RG45
6EF
(01344 775012 - e-mail:
trevor_c.edwards@btinternet.com)

by 16th October 2007

*** Available at additional cost of £15.00 per room per night**

Acknowledgement

With apologies for this belated acknowledgement, I would like to thank all the very kind members who came to Val's funeral and drove behind the hearse to the church in their lovely cars. Many people in the village have said to me what a lovely sight it was to see the lady undertaker walking in front of the hearse followed by the Austins, right through the village. I cannot thank you all enough for giving up your valuable time to be with me and my family.

All my thanks to the club members for the extremely kind donation to the RNLI.

God Bless.

Sheila Breakspear

Don's Doodlings

Things are slowly getting back to normal in our lives now. So many things have been going upside down in the last few weeks. We have had Brian and Marlene Grant staying with us for a few days which was just as well, because we had a mains water pipe fracture in the concrete floor underneath our kitchen units. Thankfully, Brian was on hand to help me restore the kitchen to as near normal as possible. The good news that came our way was that our two daughters are flying in from New Zealand and Dubai for a few days.

I hope you all enjoyed the driving tests at the Picnic in the Paddock. So many of you scored very high points in the driving tests so next year I will be making it a little more difficult for the drivers and navigators, not the Austins.

As I mentioned last month, please inform me if you would like to join Maureen and I in 2008 on our proposed trip to Swanage.

Don

New Members

We would like to welcome the following new members to the Club:

Keith Hicks and Di Bromley who run an Austin Ruby and can be contacted on 01256 353444, Peter and Jackie Appleford with their 1932 Austin 10/4 saloon reg.no. JB 681, on 01635 49080 and Malcolm Pontin who owns a 1928 Austin Heavy 12/4 reg.no. KX 1273 on 01189813227.

MORE NEWS FROM WILTON'S MUSEUM OF VINTAGE VEHICLES

STOP PRESS!

Muriel lives again! After months of major surgery, Muriel's heart started beating again after 64 years. After a tense few moments connecting up a 6 volt defibrillator, Muriel spluttered into life at 3.30 on a Tuesday afternoon. She will remain in intensive care for some months whilst she is studied for any incontinence of body fluids or strange noises.

Doctors successfully managed to hook her ventilator to the outside world in order to prevent her from suffocating the very person who revived her. Owing to limited resources, all that could be found was the flexible pipe for the Hoover. Unfortunately, Muriel's breathing proved to be a little more lively than expected and the Hoover pipe launched itself into the distance in several pieces.



Her chassis has been sent for blasting and painting and the rear springs were removed with surprising ease. Curiously, the offside spring has 7 leaves and the nearside 6 leaves. There is a theory that this was deliberate when the cars were built, particularly vans, because of the frequent use of the car with only the driver on board.

Meanwhile, Karen is looking for the Hoover.....

Elsewhere in the museum, Millicent's rear axle will be removed to investigate excessive end float on the pinion which in turn is wearing out the carden block joint at an alarming rate. It will also be a chance to find out why the axle is so noisy!

Dave

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BODY REQUIRES TLC.

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Trip to Norway

Richard (Navigator) and Helen (Driver) Scott have just returned from a Historic Road Rally in Norway in the family Morris Minor. The Classic Marathon covered some 3000k (of which 600k was on gravel) on some of Norway's remotest roads over seven days of competitive rallying. The smallest car in the Clubman's Category was an A.7; and the Morris was the smallest car tackling the full event and the largest car was...well, see the photo...



Although struggling to keep up with all the Healeys on the hills the Morris finished a creditable 33rd out of the 45 starters.

Well done Richard and Helen!

2007 COMMITTEE CONTACTS:

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	John Hancock	01189885387 (route66_2003@hotmail.com)

Events Diary Update!

October 8th	Club Night Talk by Julie Els on Zimbabwe	
October 21st	B2B Run (BEN Lynwood to Brooklands)	
November 12th	Auction Night	Don B.
November 17th	Nightjar Rally	
December 3rd	Christmas Dinner @ The Longbridge Mill	
December 10th	Fun and Games Evening	
January 14th 2008	Club Night / AGM	