

# **NORTH HAMPSHIRE AUSTIN ENTHUSIASTS GROUP**

Founded 1974

## **Monthly Newsletter and Events Update**

Editor

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**Please let me have any articles for the newsletter by the 22<sup>nd</sup> of the month, as a WORD DOCUMENT attached to an e-mail.**

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

OCTOBER 2010

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

### **Mo's Mutterings**

**Graham and Lesley Parsons have just joined our Group. They acquired their 1934 Austin 7 Ruby in June. They have limited details about it but they understand it had a long 'holiday' in New Zealand from 1934 to 1997.**

**Graham and Lesley can be contacted on 01189744311 or [grahamparsons150@btinternet.com](mailto:grahamparsons150@btinternet.com) (thankyou George for this information).**



Where are all the drivers and passengers?  
Inside Ann and Colin's house having bacon  
butties and coffee before the drive to  
Littlewick Green!

### **Colin's Column**

Once again, last month, I was interested in the old adverts that Andy keeps coming up with, where do you get them from Andy?

The one that particularly caught my eye was the one for the Reliant car, having once owned one of these, amazingly cheap to run, three wheelers. It was about 1976, soon after moving to Wokingham, when we only had one car, we could not afford to run two in those days (ah bring out the violins). I needed the car to get to work, which meant Ann had no transport. However, our neighbour, who had been in the army, had a Reliant Regal van which he had used to get to Arborfield each day but was now selling as he had left and got a job in "civvie street". It was about ten years old and in remarkably good condition, I therefore decided to buy it and used it to get to work leaving Ann with the car.

Considering the wheel arrangement, it was amazingly stable and gave very reliable and economical service for a few years. It reminded me very much of driving the Austin 7 which I had in the early sixties. Not surprising perhaps as the engine was a development of the Austin Seven.

An engineer named Tom Williams, in about 1935, built the first Reliant in Tamworth. It was a van and he built it in his back garden. However he had to take it to pieces again to get it through the house. He had formally worked for Raleigh and left to build his own 3 wheeler. The reason he chose the name Reliant is believed to be because he used many Raleigh parts which had the initial R on them so he wanted a name beginning with R. The first vans used JAP 600cc single cylinder air-cooled engines and soon changed to 747cc v-twin water cooled ones but in 1937 Reliant acquired the use of Austin 7 engines which arrived complete from Longbridge. They continued to use these until 1939 when, with the production of the Austin 7 ceasing, they started building their own side valve engine very closely based on the Austin Seven, which they continued using until about 1970. Some of these engines found their way into Austin 7 specials built in the 1950 and 1960s.

Reliant continued producing vehicles after the war but the first car did not come until 1952 when Tom Williams modified the van body to take four seats. The Reliant became quite popular during the fifties with petrol rationing and very cheap road tax, being taxed as a motorcycle. The most famous Reliant of course was the one used by 'Trotters Independent Trading'.

They did produce some four-wheel cars including the Scimitar sport car, one of which was owned by Princess Ann in her younger days. In 1999 the factory at Tamworth was demolished and production was moved to Cannock but due to various problems production ceased in 2002. This year Reliant celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> birthday although today only selling spare parts.

The site of the old factory at Tamworth is now a housing estate called "Scimitar Park" with the main road being called "Tom Williams Way" the other roads being named after Reliant vehicles. These include Robin Close, Fox Close and Regal Close.

### **Vintage Coach Trip to the Isle of Wight.**

On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September, 27 of us arrived at Mervin's Coaches in Micheldever for a coach trip to the Isle of Wight in a 1949 Bedford OB Coach, which had been arranged for us by Trevor Mulford. The coach was in amazing condition considering it was 61 years old and having been in constant use from new, including being used in many films and TV programmes. Mervin acquired it in 1978.



We set off at 9.30pm to catch the 11.00am ferry from Southampton arriving in Cowes an hour later. We then made our way to the Folly Inn at Whippingham which legend has it, originated from a French smuggling barge that ran aground in the 1700s selling illegal alcohol. This became a success leading to the inn it is today. It has a rustic appearance with walls, ceiling and floors all original. We enjoyed an excellent lunch, which was served with amazing speed.

We then moved off for a trip around the island, stopping for an ice cream while the engine cooled down after a lot of hill climbing, before arriving at Godstone for tea and a little light retail therapy for the ladies. It was then off to catch the 6.30am ferry to the main land and back to Micheldever.

We had a very enjoyable day helped by good weather and excellent company. Many thanks to Trevor M. for coming up with this idea and arranging the day.

Joining us on the coach were Brian and Marlene Grant who had travelled up from Cornwall and were staying with us for two weeks. This meant apart from the coach trip, Marlene was able to also join us at Bramshill whilst Brian was at Beaulieu and they were both able to come to the September club night. I am sure they enjoyed meeting up with old friends, as I am sure the old friends were happy to catch up with them. Ann and I certainly enjoyed their company and we had some good laughs whilst they stayed with us.

### **Bramshill Open Day**

Thanks to information received from Phil and Jan Dunford we were able to advise members in the last newsletter about the open day at Bramshill House, which was part of Heritage Open Days. The Estate was acquired by the Home Office in 1953 and since then has been a working police college and place of business for the National Policing Improvement Agency NPIA. The Estate is over 400 years old with the house being a Grade I listed Jacobean mansion set within a Grade II landscape.

A fair number of members visited during the day to enjoy the wonderful house and grounds, most coming in their 'proper' cars, which caused quite a bit of interest in the car parks. Ann and I went along in Arabella taking Marlene and Maureen with us, as Brian and Don were busy at Beaulieu. Thankfully we had good weather which meant after visiting the house we were able to stroll round the grounds and enjoy tea and cakes provided by the WI on one of England's oldest cricket grounds where first class cricket was played in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

On hearing that some of our members would be visiting Bramshill, Malcolm and Sandra who live very close by, kindly invited all members visiting to call in on them after for tea and cakes. Most of us did that, having a very pleasant time in their wonderful garden enjoying tea and for those who wished, something a bit stronger and some delicious cakes made by Sandra. A bonus for the men was to be able to look around Malcolm's garages, which apart from housing his cars contained many interesting bits of automobilia. The ladies meanwhile were being shown round the garden by Sandra who very kindly allowed those who wished to take some cuttings.

A very enjoyable day in good company, very many thanks to Malcolm and Sandra for their generous hospitality and also to Phil and Jan for advising us about the open day.

### **September Club Night**

Our September club night was split in two. In our normal room we had a talk by Tony Mealing who is the technical adviser to the Austin Ten Drivers Club and knows a great deal about Austins. He had been invited along by Trevor Edwards and gave an interesting and unusual talk on all things Austin, most of the members learning things they did not know before, particularly about Lord Austin himself.

In the conference room Karen had organised a talk by Joy Craig from the Reading and District Fuchsia Society. I understand from the ladies it was very interesting and informative and appreciated by everyone.

Many thanks to Tony and Joy for coming along to our club night and also to Trevor and Karen for organising the evening.

During the course of the evening we had our raffle as normal, except at the suggestion of Karen, all the proceeds were to go to Breakthrough Breast Cancer in memory of Jan Barker. We had a few more prizes than normal thanks to the generosity of Dave and Karen who very kindly donated a few bottles of wine.

John (Chad) who has taken over the raffle from Jan assisted on the night by Brian (Grant), sold the tickets and thanks to the wonderful generosity of our members they raised £130 which is almost treble the amount we would normally expect to take. There were so many tickets sold that the normal container we use to put the tickets in was not big enough and we had to borrow a larger one from behind the bar. Many thanks to you all for being so generous and buying many more tickets than normal. Thanks also to Dave and Karen.

### October Club Night

For our October club night we have a talk by Graham Steven on his submarine experiences, which has been arranged for us by Roy Roberts. Come along to what sounds like an interesting evening for all members.

### Free Night At The New Inn

Those of you who have booked for the free night's B&B at The New Inn should have received an email from me with details of the day's events leading up to our night at The New Inn. If you have not, please contact me ASAP.

During the day we will be meeting at The Henry Street Garden Centre for coffee and a look around the garden centre before driving to The Vine, a National Trust Property where we will spend a few hours before departing for The New Inn. If any members who are not staying at The New Inn for the night would like to join us on the run or just meet us at The Vine they are welcome to do so but **please let me know you are coming** so that I can email you a route with times etc.

That's it for now.

Safe and Happy Motoring

Colin

Secretary's Scribblings

### Quiz News

August – 'Down to Earth'

Despite the impression that many of our members are greenfingered enthusiasts there was a rather disappointing shortage of entries for the August quiz which centred on all things associated with the garden and gardening.

Nevertheless, this time, there were outright winners and no need for a tie-breaker. Nick and Pat (Buchanan) displayed their knowledge of the subject with a clean sweep of 20 all-correct answers and were rewarded for their efforts with something chocolatey to celebrate. Well done to them both!

Answers to the August Quiz will appear in the next newsletter.

With a change to the usual arrangements, the quiz, *this* month, has been devised and submitted by two Club members, Julie (Els) and Mike (Corbett). Expressing some sympathy that I, as the *de facto* Quiz-setter and therefore, for obvious reasons, never get a chance to do the quiz myself they have spent some time putting together a quite intriguing set of questions all connected to car makes and models. Having glanced through the clue list already I think this should prove quite challenging and will help pass the odd hour for anyone suffering from boredom or maybe even insomnia! I shall have a go myself – now ‘the biter’s bit’!

September’s quiz (*‘Dingbats’*) seems to have failed to attract much interest – thus far – just one entry received to date. If you take another, closer look at it many of the answers will jump out at you – honest!

You still have until 9<sup>th</sup> October to get this one in to me.

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## September’s Club Night

Exceptionally, September’s Club Night was split into two separate activities – one talk given by Tony Mealing, ATDC’s technical ‘guru’, presented to the male element and another, given by Joy Craig from the Reading Fuchsia Society, for (not quite exclusively!) those of the gentler sex. Although the subject and thread of Tony’s presentation wasn’t known beforehand and possibly wasn’t *quite* what might have been expected, it was, nevertheless, very entertaining, with little-known snippets of information associated with Herbert Austin and his rival William Morris being disclosed for the enlightenment and amusement of all.

Both talks were well-received and made for an interesting alternative to our more usual fare.

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## ‘Nightjar 2010’

That time of the year is again fast approaching and plans are well-advanced for this year’s event, to be held on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November.

Since we’ve managed to attract a number of new members to the Club in the past twelve months or so and, at the real risk (for which I apologise) of boring those who are already familiar with the *‘Nightjar’*, this is the Club’s premier event and is open to members of invited clubs as well as to our own members.

Officially, it’s described as a Navigational Scatter Rally and, as the name might suggest, is held during hours of darkness. In reality, it’s a kind of orienteering treasure hunt where the object of the exercise is to visit specific locations, identified on a map by grid references, and, once there, to perform some task in order to discover the precise location of a hidden sign bearing the name of a bird – again as suggested by the name. Those competitors/crews amassing most points then qualify for various trophies/awards presented during the late supper consumed after the last team has returned at approximately 10:30pm.

The *‘Nightjar’*, being also the final annual event within the Inter-Register calendar of activities, attracts a number of entries from quite a large area of the country – for example, Kent, Gloucester, Warwickshire and elsewhere.

As may be supposed, an event such as this requires a considerable amount of planning and certainly would not be possible to stage without the help and support of a number of essential personnel. In particular, marshals (two per each of six Manned Control Points – i.e. 12 in all) are needed to distribute and mark the Clue Sheets/Route Cards of competitors. In previous years we've managed this need quite well but, this year, find ourselves short of a few.

Of course, we would like as many members from within our Club as possible to actually *enter* the event but, if there is anyone who may not wish to enter, but is still willing to help by marshalling, we would very much like to hear from them.

If further information or clarification is needed before making a decision we would be please to provide this to satisfy curiosity or allay any fears!

Please think about this and if the prospect of sitting in a car, out in the Hampshire countryside, for a few hours in late November, followed by a hot supper (free!) on return to the Elizabeth Hall, Hook, as an alternative to watching some banal, mind-numbing 'reality' show on TV, has greater appeal then please get back to me, or any Committee Member *soonest*.

We really do need you!

Incidentally, for those who might be thinking of taking part in the 'Nightjar' several documents associated with it and providing additional information are now located on and downloadable from the Club web-site, [www.nhaeg.org.uk](http://www.nhaeg.org.uk)

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## In Memory of Jan (Barker)

As was mentioned in last month's Newsletter, following Jan's untimely passing on August 13<sup>th</sup> the Club committed to donating the proceeds from September's Club Night Raffle to the charity chosen by those closest to her in this particular instance – *Breakthrough Breast Cancer*.

It is now very pleasing to report that these amounted to a magnificent and unprecedented £130.00! Added to this were further sundry donated sums and, topped up by £38.00 from Club Funds, a cheque for £200.00 has since been forwarded to that charity as a modest contribution towards the search for an effective, lasting treatment for this most devastating of diseases.

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*Hoping the fine weather lasts just a few days longer since Jean and I are off for a week in the Scilly Isles in a day or two from the time of writing. Still, rain or shine, it's hard to keep away from the peace and tranquility to be found there.*

*TREVOR*

## **Don's Doodlings**

*Monday August 30<sup>th</sup> was Summer Bank Holiday. Maureen and I headed off to Littlewick Show with Chummy and Queenie. First port of call was Colin and Ann's for bacon butties and coffee. Very nice they were too, so good I had to have another one, just to keep an eye on the quality. Well, someone has to!*

*We were joined by our daughter Jane, husband Dan and children Ellie and Jamie who also sampled the bacon butties and coffee. Jane and Dan then went in Chummy and Ellie and Jamie came in Queenie with us on our drive to Littlewick Show.*



*I think about seven Austins were parked outside Colin and Ann's whilst their occupants were inside enjoying the refreshments. Joan Hancock has arrived in her A35 but unfortunately, it was not running very well on its way to Wokingham. When it was time to leave for Littlewick, no sooner had we set out "Thumbelina", Joan's little A35, decided she was not going and stopped almost immediately. Plan B, Thumbelina was put on Ann and Colin's drive and Joan went with John in the A7.*

*It was a pleasant drive to Littlewick but when we arrived the main entrance was a bit like a building site with evidence of heavy construction work going on and the road into the showground was extremely dusty and bumpy. Saying that, better to be dusty than muddy!*

*The day was warm and sunny. My first thing to do was look around the autojumble and then the cars. Maureen went with grandson Jamie around the stalls and activities which included many country show attractions such as ferret racing, dog showing, a gymkhana, vegetable and flower tents etc. At lunchtime, most of the North Hants Group met up for an hour or two to eat and chat.*



***Congratulations to Roy, Trevor and Colin, who took rosettes in their individual classes. A good day for the North Hants.***

*No doubt Colin and Trevor will write about our trip to the Isle of Wight in the OB coach which Maureen and I enjoyed very much. Thanks to Colin and Trevor Mulsford for organizing it all.*

*The weekend of 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> September was Beaulieu Autojumble. As usual it was a fantastic weekend and good to see all of you who dropped in for a cuppa. This year Brian Grant and I had an extra pair of hands to help out on the stall. Namely, John Chad. On Monday, after Beaulieu, John was asked what he thought of his weekend away. "It was quite an experience, although the five star living conditions were not quite up to the standard I am accustomed to!" In reply to the question "will you go again?" "Possibly, time is a great healer!"*

#### **REMINDER TO ALL CLUB MEMBERS**

*Do not forget that if you need a hydraulic hoist or an industrial sewing machine, the club own both of these items and they are there for use if you require them at any time. Ring me on 01189733568. The items are stored at Finchampstead.*

*That's all for now. Don*

## NHAEG Club Nights and Events Diary

<b><u>Club Nights 2010</u></b>		<b><u>Arranged by:</u></b>
Oct.11 <sup>th</sup>	Talk by Graham Steven on his submarine experiences	Roy
Nov. 8 <sup>th</sup>	Auction	Don/Trevor/Colin
Dec.13 <sup>th</sup>	Festive Fun Night	Karen and Dave
<b><u>2011</u></b>		
Jan.10 <sup>th</sup>	AGM	Trevor/Colin
Feb. 14 <sup>th</sup>	Quiz	Andy S.
March 14 <sup>th</sup>	Shoe Box Car	Don
April 11 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Airing	Trevor/Colin
May 9 <sup>th</sup>	TBA	TBA
<b><u>Events '10</u></b>		
Oct. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Night at The New Inn (all rooms now taken).	Colin
Nov. 20 <sup>th</sup>	Nightjar	Nightjar Committee
Dec. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Dinner	Trevor/Jean
Dec.8 <sup>th</sup>	Old Tyme Christmas Players (Coach Trip)	Jean Edwards
<b><u>2011</u></b>		
April 17 <sup>th</sup>	Drive It Day	TBA
June 20 <sup>th</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup>	Trip to Holme Lacy	Trevor/Jean
July 31 <sup>st</sup>	Picnic in the Paddock	Don/Trevor/Colin

I will add to this list as any new events of club nights are arranged. If anyone would like to organise an event or club night, please let me know.

**Colin**



## 2010 COMMITTEE CONTACTS:

Chairman:	Colin Greig	01189782087 ( <a href="mailto:colin@greigc.freemove.co.uk">colin@greigc.freemove.co.uk</a> )
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Would you trust this man with your daughter?

They did!!!

## October 2010 Quiz

All answers are a make, model *or* make *and* model of car.

Answers, this month please, together with £1.00 towards prize(s), to

Julie Els at: 5, Edgbarrow Rise, Sandhurst, GU47 8QH (julie.els@tiscali.co.uk)

- Not a young town in Alabama ----- (10)
- Little Tommy ----- (4, 6)
- Accompanied on a shallow river crossing ----- (4, 6)
- Winning aeroplane ----- (7, 8)
- Throne or sofa ----- (4)
- A foam role tangled ----- (4, 5)
- Inside Mr.Laurel's tea cup ----- (7)
- A mound of playful male ----- (7, 3)
- Flower for the E.U. ----- (5, 6)
- Freeman or Fairchild? ----- (6)
- Note on a guitar? ----- (6)
- Wanderer on firm ground ----- (4, 5)
- 6 x 2 – E + A ----- (8)
- A well dressed pepper? ----- (7, 7)
- Island in the sun ----- (5)
- Would you drive a fizzy drink? ----- (6)
- Cut off button ----- (6, 11)
- Inside a fluid ----- (4)
- Crooked Majors ----- (7)
- A shaft of golden light ----- (7)