

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

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

**SEPTEMBER 2007**

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

**Mo's Mutterings**

Life has been even more hectic than usual during August. As many members know, Don's dad, Valentine, passed away on 8<sup>th</sup> August. Thanks to all of you who came to Pop's funeral, especially with their Austins, and to Karen Witton for driving our Chummy. Also thank you for your very generous donations to the RNLI, Don's mum Sheila's favourite charity.

Don and I did enjoy our trip to the water gardens, many thanks to George and Ruth for their extremely efficient organisation. The gardens still looked pretty, despite the rain which insisted on falling gently whilst we were there.

We also had a lovely day at Littlewick Show, Don took his mum in Queenie and I drove Chummy. After coffee and cake at Ann and Colin's, five cars drove to Littlewick with no problems. We met lots of old friends, the weather was very good and we enjoyed our picnic lunch after looking around the small autojumble. After lunch we looked around the rest of the show. Jean Edwards did very well with her photographic entries, five thirds I think! The flowers were beautiful and the vegetables enormous! A lovely day ending with dinner at Ann and Colin's. Don's mum said she hadn't had such a wonderful day out for a long time.



Starting out  
from New  
Inn on trip  
to  
Longstock  
Water  
Gardens

Maureen

**STOP PRESS: The date of the Picnic in the Paddock is Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

*Don's Doodlings*

It is with deepest regret I have to inform you that my father, Pop Breakspear, passed away peacefully in his sleep on the 8<sup>th</sup> August last, whilst in the Berkshire Nursing Home, Wokingham.

I would like to thank all the members who sent condolence cards to myself and my family and the members who gave up their precious time to bring their vintage cars to join in the procession to the church and the crematorium.

Pop would have been in his element checking the cars over before the "off". Many of you will have different memories of Pop but I think the one which will stay in most of our minds is at the Picnic in the Paddock last year doing the driving tests on his electric buggy with the orange bucket on his head!

Although not a seafaring man, Pop and my late sister always donated to the RNLI. My family and I thank the club and its members for the extremely generous donation of £75.00 to the RNLI.

On a happier note, sometime around mid to late summer of 2008, I am tentatively looking at organising a trip to Swanage, possibly for a long weekend. If the interest is there and you think you would like to join in please let me know by email or telephone and I can keep a note of interested parties.

*Don*

**COLIN'S COLUMN**

Before I start this month's column I would like to apologise to Jean for not mentioning in last month's Newsletter, the excellent day out she organised for us on the 8<sup>th</sup> July to Loseley Park. I do not know how I missed it out although things were a bit hectic at the time I wrote my column. Thankfully, Maureen wrote about it in her Editorial and Don mentioned it in his Doodlings. I would therefore like to say a belated thank you to Jean for all the effort she put into arranging a very enjoyable visit. I know everyone who went really enjoyed the day.

## **Valentine (Pop) Breakspear**

As most of you know we lost our oldest member on the 8<sup>th</sup> August when Valentine Breakspear, known to us all as 'Pop', sadly passed away at the age of 93. The funeral was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> August. Those who knew him will remember him as a real character. Elsewhere in this newsletter Don will be writing a bit about his Dad, but I know everyone would wish me to send their condolences to Sheila (Ma) his wife for 72 years, as well as to Don and the rest of the Breakspear family. Our thoughts are with them all at this sad time.

## **August Club Night**

With nothing special planned our August club night was a Noggin 'n' Natter. As quite a few members were on holiday I was not sure how many would turn up. In the event, we had a good crowd of over 40 with quite a few arriving early to enjoy a meal before the meeting. In spite of the dreary weather we had a good selection of cars in the car park.

The star for the night was Chris and Brian's newly acquired Austin 7 Cabriolet, which looked very smart and tidy and caused quite a bit of interest in the car park. I understand it goes very well and they are both pleased with it. It will make a nice stable mate for their Bentley; I should think it would almost go in the boot.

## **Longstock Park Water Gardens**

On Sunday August the 18<sup>th</sup> George and Ruth organised a visit to the 'Longstock Park Water Gardens', which are near Stockbridge. The weather unfortunately was not good but non-the-less the day was enjoyed by all who went.

We started at 'The New Inn' where our hosts Tim and June laid on complimentary coffee and biscuits for us, before leaving at 11.00am. We followed a very picturesque route to our lunch stop, which was 'The Plough' in Longparish where we all enjoyed an excellent meal. It was then just a few more miles to the Water Gardens.

The Longstock Park Water Gardens are part of the Leckford Estate, which is fully owned and managed by Waitrose. They were created by John Spedan Lewis in the 1940s and cover seven acres of garden including two and a half acres of lakes, which are fed by the River Test. The maze of interconnecting islands and woodland glades combine to create a different vista at every turn. The lakes, which are full of fish, are surrounded by a great variety of flowers. If you have never been I can recommend a visit, they are open on the first and third Sunday of the month.

Many thanks to George and Ruth for organising such an enjoyable day.

### **Picnic in the Paddock**

The 'Picnic in the Paddock' planned for July, which had to be postponed because of the dreadful rain, will now take place on the 16<sup>th</sup> September, hopefully the weather will have improved by then. It will start at midday, please bring your own chairs, and tables etc. as well as your picnic and if you want to bring a gazebo then please do.

Remember you can bring along your children or grandchildren as well as other family and friends, it's a very large paddock. After lunch Don will again set some simple driving tests for us, which are always good fun, with a prize for the winner.

It is in Finchampstead as normal, if anyone has not been before then contact me, or any member of the committee for directions.

### **September Club Night**

At our September club night we will be having a quiz kindly organised by John and Joan Hancock. I can't tell you anything about it but I am sure it will be a good evening. Hopefully by then our summer will have arrived and we will have plenty of 'proper cars' in the car park. Come along and give John and Joan your support.

### **B2B Run**

The B2B run will take place on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October. The run starts at Lynwood in Sunninghill and finishes at Brooklands. It is in aid of BEN Motor and Allied Trades Benevolent Fund. I know quite a few of you, like me, who had previously notified BEN that we would like to take part have received their entry forms. If you do not have an entry form and would like one, you can obtain it by telephoning Gillian Freeman on 01344 620191. The run is for cars made up to 1970 and is limited to just 100 cars, so if you want to take part make sure you get your entry forms in ASAP. They ran this event two years ago and it was an excellent day out.

### **0870 Numbers**

Nothing to do with cars or the club but members might be interested in a website that recently came to my attention. The website gives you the landline number for an 0870 telephone number which of course means you do not have to pay a company or person for the privilege of phoning them, you just pay the normal rate. It also means if you have a package deal with your phone company which gives you free calls on normal geographical numbers then by using the landline number instead of the 0870 number the call will cost you nothing. Visit the website and you will see what I mean. It is [www.saynoto0870.com](http://www.saynoto0870.com)

## Events

I know that everyone appreciates it when a member offers to give some of their time to organise an event but one of the things that nearly always causes a few problems and increases the workload, are members who phone at the last minute often when there was a deadline for entries, to see if they could come. This always causes more work for the organiser such as phone calls to wherever we are going to notify change of numbers and, if we are having a meal the pub or restaurant also have to be advised. It also involves extra copies of the route having to be printed. If you intend to come on a run please give your name to the organiser as soon as possible, in any event before the final date given for entries. Because of problems on quite a few events it has been decided that, in future, organisers will be advised not take late entries.

It can also cause problems if members who have indicated they are coming to an event do not turn up, particularly when tables have been booked etc. It is also difficult to know what to do at the start of an event, if someone has not arrived by the start time. If you are unable to come on an event at the last moment for whatever reason, it is only courteous to contact the organiser in person, not send a message with someone else or worse still not tell them at all.

I am sure we can rely on members' cooperation in this matter. I know the organisers of events would very much appreciate it.

That's my moan over.

Safe and Happy Motoring.

Colin

## *Secretary's Scribblings*

### *Still Drying Out!*

For the past five weeks or so Jean and I have been battling on after the flooding of July 20<sup>th</sup> though the time is fast approaching now when we shall need to follow the example of several neighbours and move out into temporary accommodation. The noise from dehumidifying equipment running 24/7, plus the prospect (fingers crossed!) of renovation work commencing in the not-too-distant future has driven us to the conclusion that we would be better vacating – at least for a while. Though the effects of the flooding have virtually disappeared, visually, from the outside, (the garden, in particular, seems to have recovered remarkably well), internally the ground floor resembles something of a 'war zone', definitely lacking the comfort generally associated with a 'home'. It certainly causes one to appreciate how those poor folk in Tewkesbury, Gloucester and elsewhere, especially up north, must have suffered and still be suffering where, of course, the effects of the storm were much more severe than they were here.

The event itself was traumatic to say the least but dealing with the aftermath is even more irksome. One hurdle which is slowing down the drying out process is the fact that some Marley tiles in the study are suspected of containing minute quantities of asbestos! This requires them to be laboratory tested and, if found to do so, having to be removed by a specialist company before any further action is taken. Health and Safety gone mad!

Whether we shall be sitting down to Christmas Dinner in our own home remains something of a 64,000 Dollar Question but, thanks to kind offers from, amongst others, friends within the club, who have already provided help and support following the event, we feel fairly confident that we shall not be out on the streets!

Speaking of Christmas Dinner.....

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## Club Christmas Dinner – 2007

The Club Christmas Dinner generally takes place on the first Monday in December which, this year, is the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the month.

As those who have attended the event for the past two years will be aware we have placed our custom with 'The Falcon', in Rotherwick, where we have generally been very satisfied with everything, the fare, service, ambience, etc. Therefore it is known that many members would favour returning there this year and, of course, we may well plan to do so.

However, as many will also know, the Christmas Dinner, in particular, is very well subscribed – even to the point of being over-subscribed – and it will have been noted that our membership has grown somewhat from last year so the likelihood is that pressure to attend will be even greater.

'The Falcon' has been contacted and the landlord (Rui – it is believed that the establishment is under new management now) has promised to provide full details of their Christmas Menu within the next couple of weeks.

We have also been in touch with the 'Longbridge Mill Restaurant', (most appropriate name bearing in mind the nature of our club!), in Sheffield on Loddon, for similar information. Many members will recall that we held our Christmas Dinner there some 3 or 4 years ago and the experience was not a happy one! Room and surroundings great – food pretty awful. However, since then, the establishment has had a change of ownership and things have improved significantly. We took lunch there a while back, when Richard ran his *Ramble*; at that time the food was excellent. From contacts recently made it is believed that this might offer a viable alternative to 'The Falcon' and certainly would provide more space so no members would be denied the chance to attend should they wish to do so.

In any event, full details of both options will be available shortly and an informed decision then made which establishment will be chosen for this year's event.

May I urge members, when details *are* published, to please make sure they get their requests to attend in ***promptly*** to prevent any disappointment. As always, 'the early bird gets the worm' though, in this case, the fare, hopefully, will be rather more appetizing!

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## Longstock Water Gardens

Colin has already referred to this trip, which took place on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> August, under weather conditions which were, admittedly, far from ideal but I felt it appropriate to add a note of appreciation to George and Ruth for organising it and setting up everything.

The route to Longstock took in minor roads, passing through numerous delightful villages and the meal, at 'The Plough', added a pleasant, gastronomic touch to proceedings.

The fact that they *are* Water Gardens was especially meaningful since there was plenty of the 'wet stuff' in evidence - both beneath and above us! Still both the ducks and fish appeared to be happy enough!

Needless to report, the weather didn't dampen the enthusiasm of some for purchasing items from the garden shop and we returned in *Clarissa* suitably laden with ornamental vegetation!

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## Excursion 2008

Though a few more questionnaire responses have dribbled in since last month, which throw a little more light on preferences, as mentioned in July's scribblings, it is planned to solicit members' views on this topic, verbally, at September's Club Night on the 10<sup>th</sup> (John and Joan's Quiz Night).

Therefore please be prepared to offer your suggestions and indicate preferences at that time. Whatever option is chosen it will be necessary to start the booking process fairly soon now.

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As I write, a spell of brighter, warmer weather appears to have made its way, somewhat reluctantly, to our neck of the woods. Let's hope it remains with us for a while and certainly for the Littlewick Show this coming Bank Holiday Monday. Hope to see you there!

Meanwhile, safe and trouble-free travels!

*TREVOR*

## Post Script

### Valentine 'Pop' Breakspear

As Colin has reported elsewhere we recently saw the passing of our most senior club member, 'Pop' Breakspear, whose funeral took place on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> August. He would certainly have approved of the impressive procession of historic vehicles which accompanied the hearse on its way, firstly to the Church of the Holy Ghost, Crowthorne and thence on to Easthampstead Park Crematorium. It was a most fitting manner in which to say '*Good Bye*' to someone who was a lover of 'real cars', had owned and driven a respectable number of them and who had been a stalwart supporter of the Club for a long period of time.

Apart from immediate family, 'no flowers' were requested to be sent but Sheila, ('Ma'), Val's wife, indicated that, if preferred, a donation to the RNLI would be very much appreciated since this is a charity which she favours greatly. (As an ex-mariner – though many moons ago! – this is a charity which I, also, feel is very deserving especially since it relies totally on public subscription, with no Governmental help – or, indeed, interference – at all)

Hence a decision was made by the committee to donate the sum of £75.00 to this very worthy cause and it is trusted that members will endorse the action taken on their behalf.

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### Oakley Hall Oak Lodge Fete

The following was received by email regarding the above Fete.

“Please forgive this unsolicited e-mail but I am trying to get in touch with clubs or owners of vintage and pre-war cars in the area. My mother-in-law is a resident at the Oak Lodge Old People's Home that is part of Oakley Hall on the B3400, on the outskirts of Oakley between Basingstoke and Overton. Each year a fete is held to raise funds to provide outings for residents. Usually a low key affair with traditional games, tombola, raffle refreshments etc. but held in a beautiful setting. This year I have been asked if I can bring along our 1934 Riley to put on show and I thought it would be more interesting for people to see more than a single car.

I wondered therefore, as you are fairly local, whether your members might be interested in bringing along a few cars to display.

The event is to be held on the 9<sup>th</sup> September from 2 p.m. until about 5 p.m. approx., and we may be able to provide some sort of incentive in the form of a small prize for the best (or most interesting, or the one attendees would like to take home) car but would welcome your advice on that.

I am aware that unfortunately, the date clashes with Beaulieu and that this may be a problem, but there is no harm in asking!



The Oakley Hall website is <http://www.oakleyhall-park.com/> to give you an idea of the setting and the Hall would have no problems if you chose to bring picnics, wine etc., although, given the current weather, brollies may be more appropriate. I look forward to hearing from you”

Thanks in advance  
Tina & Chris Roden  
Tel: 01256 781867

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This may be of interest to those of you refurbishing your Austins:

[www.theoldtrimshop.com](http://www.theoldtrimshop.com)

Michael Herbert  
Master Trimmer  
35 years experience trimming vintage and classic vehicles

phone: 01264 810104  
mobile: 07824 377373

Email: [theoldtrimshop@gmail.com](mailto:theoldtrimshop@gmail.com)

***Have a look at the website.***

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## **Events Diary Update!**

<b>Sept.8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>International Autojumble – Beaulieu</b>	
<b>September 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Club Night Quiz</b>	<b>John &amp; Joan Hancock</b>
<b>Sept. 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Picnic in the Paddock</b>	
<b>October 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Club Night Talk by Julie Els</b>	
<b>October 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>B2B Run (BEN Lynwood to Brooklands)</b>	
<b>November 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Auction Night</b>	<b>Don B.</b>
<b>November 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Nightjar Rally</b>	
<b>December 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Christmas Dinner @ The Falcon</b>	
<b>December 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Fun and Games Evening</b>	

