



# BACKFIRE

[www.northwestcasualclassics.com](http://www.northwestcasualclassics.com)  
[www.nwcc-backfire.blogspot.com](http://www.nwcc-backfire.blogspot.com)

May 2008

## COMMITTEE

### **Chairman**

John Greatbanks  
01925 837970

### **Vice-Chairman**

Russ Hadfield  
0161 7760639

### **Treasurer**

Rob Smith  
01925 723243

### **Events**

Maria McPartand  
01925 245499  
maria.mcpartland  
@tiscali.co.uk

### **Social Secretary**

Dave Espley  
01925 724006

### **Newsletter**

Steve Tanser  
2 Rowan Close  
Great Sankey  
Warrington  
WA5 3BH  
01925 727120  
steve.tanser@sky.com

### **Web Site**

Mike Bennett  
mike@patcomsys.com

## Chairman's Word

Aloha Mambbers ,

Your wondering Chairman returns after his jaunte in New Zealand and a suspected heart attack whilst I was there. I was hospitalised for k days only k8 hours after flying 27 hours, the stress of such a trip was a probable factor with my health. I would just like to say that if you are overweight (as I am), or a tall person, don't even think of long haul flights especially in economy seits, save up and fly 1st class which costs in the region of £5,000+, anyway I'm steadily getting back to reality now.

Our first show at Sandbach (6 die-hards turned up), was bloody chronic, our members were supposed to be on a static display but we found ourselves surrounded by dozens of heavy trucks many of which were 38 tonners, then, about 1-0 pm they all fired up their engines for a run through the town, suddenly a fog descended from their exhausts giving us all "triple cancer" The Show was very badly signed for entrance and the marshalls might as well have not attended, I for one, won't be attending next year and I think the organisers should return our £5 entrance fees, in fact, I think they should re-name the show:-FODENS SANDBACH TRUCK SHOW  
Yours Friendly Neighborhood  
Chairman John Wayne Greatbanks



# CONTENTS

## PAGE No

1. Chairman's Notes
3. Bits & Pieces
4. Drive it Day - Sandbach
5. Club Events/Discounts
6. Volkswagen Beetle
7. Are you a car nut?
8. Classic Ads



Page 4



Page 6

**Next Meeting June 10th**  
**Deadline for inclusion in next issue June 3rd**

### DISCLAIMER

Any views or opinions expressed in the NWCC newsletter do not necessarily represent those of the club, its officers or committee members. No responsibility can be accepted for inaccurate or misleading information within this newsletter, but every effort will be made to verify, wherever practical, beforehand.

Please note: The third party liability insurance which the club has taken out only covers members when attending events which have been booked through the club. For other events attended individually, please make sure you are covered by your own insurance.

# BITS & PIECES

## Here's a couple of pieces from Ranting Russ.

### Eight track stereos

Did you know that these were invented by Bill Lear's consortium back in 1964. They became a very much of a "must have" item for 1960's and 1970's vehicles.

However, did you also know that very few artists signed up to the format for their music, with Frank Sinatra and the Jackson Five being two of them.

No wonder they call them eight tracks, because it sounds as though you cant get more that eight tracks to play. About as useful as a betamax video player !!!!!!!

**Story Source: Practical Classics April 2008**

### Heel and Toe driving

Apparently Heel and toe driving can save the clutch/gearbox of your car, particularly if you car is fitted with a crash box.

Here's how you do it:

While changing down and braking at the same time, maintain brake pressure with the ball of your right foot, whilst at the same time with the heel of your right foot, tap the throttle enough to obtain the same rpm as you would have been in the lower gear. When you let the clutch out, you are supposed to have a seamless gear change.

Sounds to me that you need to be Rudolph Dropabolokov to even attempt this, and if you don't end up crashing, then your legs will probably end up twisted anyway.

Knacker the gearbox, at least it doesn't kill or maim you !!!!!!!

**Story Source: Practical Classics April 2008**

### The Griffin

You may have seen recently in the press that Vauxhall has redesigned their famous griffin

emblem. The new design is to bring "a more dynamic and contemporary look".

The griffin is originally from the coat of arms of 13<sup>th</sup> century mercenary soldier, Fulk le Breant, who was granted the Manor of Luton for services to King John. He also built a house, named Fulk's Hall, just south of the Thames in London. This was later known as Vauxhall, where the Vauxhall Iron Works was established before it moved to Luton in 1905.

---

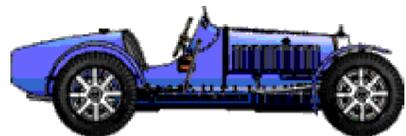
A new online service has been set up to meet the growing need for legal guidance for drivers facing motoring convictions. Motorists can access advice on whether they have a case to challenge the courts free of charge, before enlisting legal representation. To see more, click on [www.driving-law.co.uk](http://www.driving-law.co.uk).

---

### E-Petitions

Petitions have long been sent to the Prime Minister by post or delivered to the Number 10 door in person. You can now both create and sign petitions on a website too, giving you the opportunity to reach a potentially wider audience and to deliver your petition directly to Downing Street. You may remember last year the petition, reported in the national papers to try to stop the road pricing, which attracted over two million signatures. This was done on this website. However, a word of caution is in order. A recent petition on the site, which attracted a lot of media cover, was found to be based on hearsay and not fact. So make sure in your own mind that the originator of the petition is not just stirring up unjustified anxiety. You'll find the petitions at <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/>.

---



***DRIVE IT DAY - SANDBACH***  
***WORDS - DAVE ESLEY***  
***PICTURES - MARIA MCPARTLAND***



Well our first official outing in 2008 had arrived. A run out to Sandbach on 20th April for the annual "Festival of Transport". This of course coincided with the Drive it Day dedicated to St Georges day by FBHVC.



After last year's debacle with bad weather on most show days we felt sure we were due a dry and sunny

day. This was not to be, but spirits were up and six vehicles gathered on Morrisons car park, Stockton Heath. It was good to see Big John, our Chairman, safely back from N.Z. The road trip with St.Georges flags fluttering was uneventful on the way there and we arrived well on time to find the organisation a little awry. We were down as Static show vehicles but ended up with the main bunch on the "Commons" car park.

Plenty of vehicles; plenty of variety and cold drizzling rain was the order of most of the day, but the worst weather on show day is always better than the best weather on a work day, yes?

The town centre that is cobbled was off limits to vehicles due to the addition of all the Charity Stalls that were squeezed into the side streets last year. Also, the local round table people had set up a spectacular Pig Roast and the poor Town Cryers seemed a bit pushed out of the picture. Mind you, if you don't try new



things you will never know will you?  
 Our club did some good "Networking" with individuals and a lot of A5 flyers

were handed out to promote our Website and Ferry Show. Very friendly atmosphere until all the Diesel wagons started up just before the Parade began through the town. Cough splutter etc. It may have been Cancerous particulates we were exposed to but at least they were Classic ones!!

It was nice to see Paul G in his Dad's old Moggy soft top chugging thro' with the parade



people.  
 We started to drift off home after 3 30pm in convoy and your's truly on the way back decided to re-shape the front

of Russ's Alpine with a very sad reversing manoeuvre which to this day I cannot explain away. Sorry again Russ. Public humiliation. Sad thing is that Russ was due to travel with me in the VDP until I found him a ticket and asked him to make the numbers up!!

A good excuse to shake the cobwebs out and start the season, I feel. Thanks to Maria for sorting the tickets and to all who turned up, even a few extras, John Newton Brian and their good ladies.

# CLUB EVENTS 2008

18<sup>th</sup> May Spring Road Run

31<sup>st</sup> May & 1<sup>st</sup> June Tatton Park

15<sup>th</sup> June P. Gannicliffe Mem.

28<sup>th</sup> June Penketh Carnival

8<sup>th</sup> July Barry Molyneaux night

13<sup>th</sup> July Fiddler's Ferry

24<sup>th</sup> July Eve Whipping Stocks

27<sup>th</sup> July Audlem F. of T.

2<sup>nd</sup> Aug Hebden Bridge

3<sup>rd</sup> Aug Woodvale

16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> Aug Tatton Park

23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> Aug Oulton Park

31<sup>st</sup> Aug Rotary – Sutton Fields

7<sup>th</sup> Sept Cholmondley Castle

13<sup>th</sup> Sept. Wirral F. of T.

14<sup>th</sup> Sept Daresbury Labs

27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> Sept. Widnes

---

## CLUB DISCOUNTS



Orford Green, Warrington

# ANDREW PAGE

Lilford Street, Warrington. Ask for Simon

# Alpha1Autos

U2 Priestly Street, Warrington. Discount card required

Please remember to take your club membership card with you in order to claim your discount

## The Volkswagen Beetle by Russ Hadfield



Everyone knows this little car was the biggest selling vehicle, with 21 million having been sold by 1992. However, did you know its beginnings were centred around some of the most well known people in history.

Hitler, yes uncle Adolf himself, wanted a peoples car. It had to have a top speed of 62mph, fuel consumption of 42/gallon, an air cooled engine and be able to carry two adults along with 3 kids. Oh, and if that wasn't enough, it should sell for £86 (1000 Reichmarks in German currency) He also told the designers to look to nature re its streamlining/design, and therefore it had to look like a beetle.

Now, we have already one famous person involved, but now Ferdinand Porsche was drafted in to help with its development. However, despite such a man being involved, he was flummoxed by the overall price of the finished car. Two cylinder motorbike engines for the Zundapp and NSU were tried but were not successful. The success of the chosen engine (984cc) was down to Franz Reimspeiss, an Austrian engineer. Never heard of him – no neither had I !!

The name of the vehicle was originally going to be the Porsche 60, but as Ferdy

was not successful how could they give it that name so they came up with the KdF-Wagen (Strength through Joy Car) – got a ring to it hasn't it? KdF stands for Kraft durch Freude if you really want to know !!

Our dear little friend Adolf, said that all the little Kraut families could start saving for one using a savings book, and when they had saved enough, the car would be theirs. How nice of him was that? Approximately 330,000 applications were made to save for the KdF Wagen

However, a small hurdle, known as the Second World War got in the way, and the cars made up to the point of the start of the war (approx 600 cars) ended up in the hands of the high ranking German officers including Adolf himself. What about the poor Kraut families and their savings books? They got sent to Poland !!

Now most of you will have heard of the Kubelwagen, you know that funny looking jeep with panels that looked like those Citroen vans of the 2CV era. But did you know that there was a 4-wheel drive version of the Beetle. Yes indeed, it was called the Kommandeurwagen and brought out in 1942. It was based the Kubelwagen chassis and KdF Wagen saloon body. – about 660 were made

There was also a Schimmwagen, yes you've guessed it, an amphibious version of the KdF Wagen also introduced in 1942 and about 14,00 were made.

The rest, Ladies and Gentleman is history, and old man Ferdy Porsche can be regarded as a Beetle failure. So next time you look at a Porsche 911, just think, it could have been KdF Wagen

## **YOU KNOW YOU'RE A CAR NUT WHEN-**

You change the engine oil every other week.  
Your email address refers to your car rather than to you.

You've been known to yell "It means check your mirrors' dammit!" at your television.  
You've paid £1.10 a litre for petrol without complaining.

You buy new parts because you don't know where you put the spares.

You bought a car before buying a house.

You bought a car before buying furniture for the new house.

You find that you need a new house because you've outgrown your garage and the neighbours are threatening violence if you park one more vehicle on the street or in the front garden.

The requirements you give your estate agent are (in order of importance):

- 1) 8 car climate controlled garage with an attached office.
- 2) Outside parking for 6 cars and a crew cab pickup & car trailer.
- 3) 3 phase 220V outlets in the garage for your welder.
- 4) An inspection pit.
- 5) Convenient to a hazardous waste disposal site.
- 6) Deaf neighbours.
- 7) Across the street from a paint and body shop.

8) Some sort of house with a working toilet and shower on the property somewhere.  
You measure all family acquisitions in terms of the number of tyres that could have been purchased.

You know well that dental work is the equivalent of three sets of tyres.

You look at the purchase of tools as a long term investment.

Your garage holds more cars than your house has bedrooms.

You have enough spare parts to build another car.

More than one parts supplier recognizes your voice and greets you by name when you call.

You can't remember when you last worked on weekdays and rested on weekends.

You're registered for wedding gifts at Halfords.

After your answer to "What did you do this weekend?" the next question is always: "And you do this for fun? Right?"

You have a separate drawer for 'garage clothes'.

You talk to other cars on the road, calling them by the manufacturer's name.

Your criteria for selecting a significant other include car repair skills. Air tools optional.

Your friends don't recognize you without overalls.

Your family remembers your hair colour as "grease".

You planned your wedding around car show schedules.

You remember the registration numbers of every car you've owned, but can't remember your phone number.

Your family brings the couch into the garage so they can spend some time with you.

A neighbour asks if you have any oil, to which you query, "Synthetic or organic?" and they reply, "Vegetable or corn."

You always want to change something in your car to make it better.

You think that traction control and ABS are for those who can't drive.

You save broken car parts as "mementos".

You spend more time polishing your car than you do bathing.

Instead of pictures of your kids in your wallet, you have pictures of your cars.

You spend more on insurance premiums than on food.

When someone refers to "The Good Book", you think of the Frost catalogue.

You own five cars and only one of them is street legal.

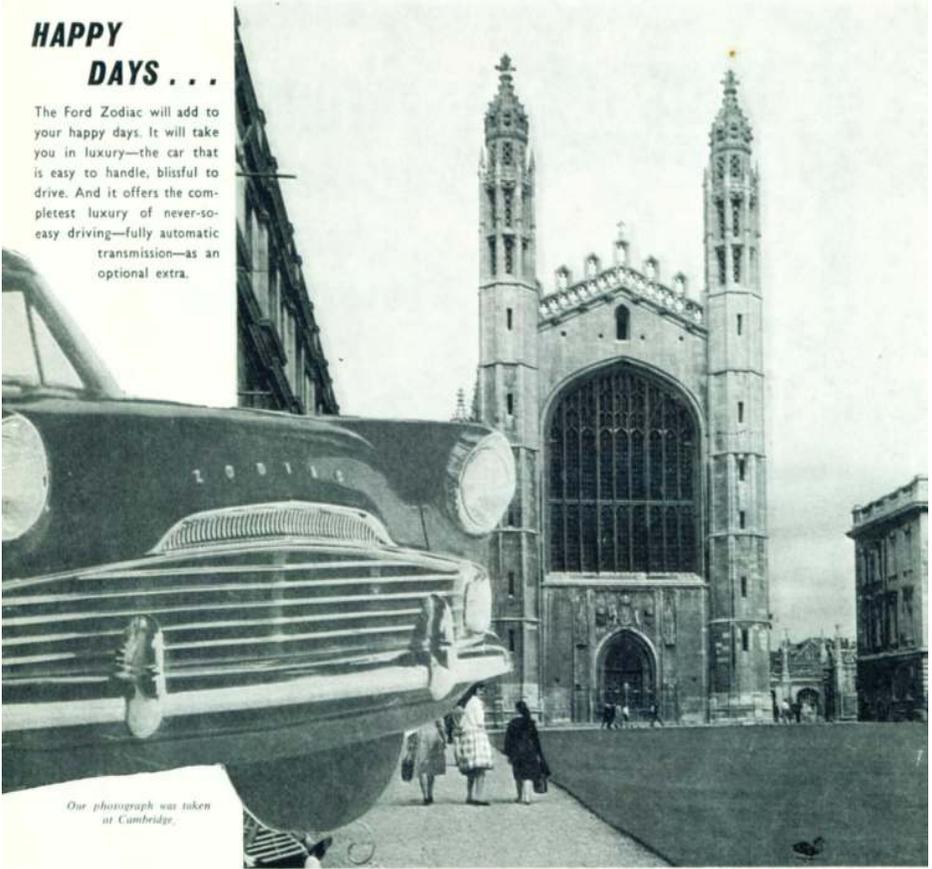
After you tell your wife where you'd like to go on your holiday she answers: "Why... is there a car museum there?"

**So; do you recognise anyone you know?**

# CLASSIC ADS

## **HAPPY DAYS . . .**

The Ford Zodiac will add to your happy days. It will take you in luxury—the car that is easy to handle, blissful to drive. And it offers the complete luxury of never-so-easy driving—fully automatic transmission—as an optional extra.



*Our photograph was taken at Cambridge.*

## **GATES OF WOODFORD**

**FRANK G. GATES LTD., GATES CORNER, WOODFORD, E.18**  
Phone : WAN 6633 (9 lines)

BE FIRST  
ON THE ROAD  
WITH FORD

## **WALTHAMSTOW MOTOR CO.**

**736 LEA BRIDGE ROAD, LEYTON, E.10**  
Phone : LEY 4461 (3 lines)