



# BACKFIRE

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

March 2009

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## Chairman's Word

Aloha!!! to all Members

Well at last we are into March with hopefully, all the lousy weather behind us and just like the Bears' we have come out of hibernation ready to enjoy the 2009 Car Show Season which of course commences with the Run to The Swettenham Arms near Congleton for Sunday lunch on the 15th March next weekend, (lets hope we don't have to wait for the meal as long as we did at the Sportsman), we will be meeting at The Truckstop at Lymm Jnc 20 at 12-30.

I noticed the other day in the magazine THE WIRE that our Car Show last year got a mention along with a photograph, I understand negotiations are ongoing with Maria and the necessary representative on the Council who are very keen to have us back once again, it was very enjoyable especially as we were surrounded by food shops, Ha! Ha!

Well, here's looking forward to a full show season, I myself am booked into 24 throughout till early October but according to "Billy" he has something like 35 and that means he will be setting off on a Friday Midnight, mind you, he'll have the road to himself and he needs it at 34 m.p.h maximum, I bet even the Caravan people play hell with him, Ha! Ha!

Anyway, Good Luck, Lock and Load and lets' Hit the Beach'

Your Friendly Neighbourhood  
Chairman

John Wayne Greatbanks.



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**Next Meeting April 14th.  
Deadline for inclusion in next issue April 7th.**

### 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

The Times newspaper has published a list of what it says are the world's strangest driving laws. According to the paper, drivers should take note of the following:

It is illegal for a cab in the City of London to carry corpses or rabid dogs.

**In Alabama, it's illegal for a driver to be blindfolded while driving a vehicle.**

In San Salvador, drunk drivers can be punished by death before a firing squad.

**In the UK, a man who feels compelled to urinate in public can do so only if he aims for his rear wheel and keeps his right hand on his vehicle.**

In London, it is illegal to flag down a taxi if you have the plague.

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The latest government scheme that has been on everyone's mind just lately is the continuous insurance proposal and how it would affect classic cars and their owners. In particular was the effect on restoration projects and donor cars. According to the Federation of British

Historic Vehicle Clubs, the proposed scheme is unlikely to affect classic car owners.

The scheme is designed to make avoidance of paying premiums more difficult and evaders easier to catch, but this would not become law for every vehicle. Vehicles which have been taken off the road and are subject to SORN will be specifically exempted, as are those that have not been used on the road and were last taxed before January 31<sup>st</sup> 1998 (the pre-SORN category).

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The above consultation also highlighted that up to five per cent of insured drivers may not have their correct details entered on the Motor Insurance Database. This could make them liable for fines or invalidate their cover. The FBHVC says owners of classic cars should check askMID's website at [www.askmid.com](http://www.askmid.com) to ensure their details have been input correctly.

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A new web site covering classic cars may be of interest. Go to [www.smokingtyre.co.uk](http://www.smokingtyre.co.uk) for lots of car stuff. You can check out the most watched ebay cars and it even shows mis-listed cars, so you might spot a bargain. It also has links to car DVDs and buying advice



## Lymm 2008

by Steve Tanser



For our last event of the year we once again made the short journey over to Lymm to attend the annual Boxing Day Steam and classic day (or should that be pub crawl). In previous years we have first visited Cotebrook House to meet with residents and let them see our cars. This year, though, this wasn't to be so we went straight to the Jolly Thresher where all the classics and traction engines assemble.

We managed to get more or less together on the car park and had a good look around at the other vehicles arriving. All morning classic cars, tractors, lorries and bikes were pulling up either in the car park at the front of the pub. The traction engines parked right in front of the building in the prime position.

After a coffee in the pub, we were going to drive down to The Old No 3 for lunch but we heard that all the tables were reserved, so, it was back into the Thresher for our meal. After lunch, a couple of us drove down to see how many were at the No 3, but there wasn't a space spare so we turned around and called it a day.

The three pubs visited (they also go to The Wheat-sheaf) all get pretty full but it's well worth going to see so many different kinds of vehicles, most of which you probably never see at the usual shows we attend.



## **Club Events 2009**

**15th March** - Swettenham Arms

**26th April** - Drive It Day Run

**10th May** - Cholmondley Castle

**30th & 31st May** - Tatton Park

**7th June** - Skipton Fest of T/port

**14th June** - Summer Road Run

**27th June** - Town Centre Car Show

**4th & 5th July** - St Helens Show

**12th July** - Fiddler's Ferry Show

**18th & 19th July** - Cholmondley  
Pageant of Power

**26th July** - Audlem Festival of  
Transport

**30th July** - Whipping Stocks

**1st & 2nd August** - Woodvale

**16th August** - Knowsley Hall  
Show

**22nd & 23rd August** - Tatton Park

**30th & 31st August** - Oulton Park  
TBC

**6th September** - Cholmondley  
Castle

**26th & 27th Sept** - Victoria Park,  
Widnes

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## **CLUB DISCOUNTS**



Orford Green, Warrington

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# **ANDREW PAGE**

Lilford Street, Warrington. Ask for Simon

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Alpha Autos on Priestly Street has recently changed from being an accessory/parts shop to an in car entertainment specialist. The name has also changed to Bass Junkies. This means that the discount card is now invalid and should be destroyed.

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

## Russ's Rants

*NWCC's grumpy old sod  
gets it off his chests*

### Battery Powered Cars

As we start a new year, out with the old and in with the new, and all that, and following on from my global warming article in the December Backfire, this rant is with new technology and its not all that its cracked up to be.

In the Daily Telegraph, an article head-lined "Drivers must switch to electric vehicles" grabbed my attention. Apparently, the Committee on Climate Change are to recommend that large numbers of motorists in the UK must switch to greener vehicles by the year 2025, if the UK is to meet its commitments, ie to cut emissions by 80%

Now this may sound bl\*\*dy obvious to you and I, but with Gordon Brown being an advocate of the electric car, this would appear to be the main focus.

Can you imagine the M25 full of electric vehicles, it would be like one great big scalextric, although the way some people drive it is more likely to be Billy Smart's Dodgems. The RAC will be struggling to keep up with the number of breakdowns with vehicles having a maximum running time or distance it can cover before the battery goes flat. At least there will be no need for breakdown statistics as it will all be due to "flat battery"

In true leadership fashion, our gallant leader, Chairman John Wayne Greatbanks, is embracing this technology to the full, and has already applied for his "I Love my Battery car" sticker. "The Hellllllll he has" I hear the cry!!

Proving me totally wrong Top Gear go and show the new Honda FCX Clarity, a car that at least looks half decent unlike the design abortion Toyota Prius, and it is based on Hydrogen Fuel Cell technology. It goes well and can do up to 220 on a tank of hydrogen. The only emission is water Well Done Honda!! I'm sure the Yanks will be looking at doing a V8 version!!

Now then, going back to my favourite design of a car the Toyota Prius, it appears the UN now want more accurate mpg/emission data available for hybrid vehicles. Previously they have been ignored as the cars previously have been described as "battery powered".

The old Major of London, Ken Livingston appeared to have be sucked in by this in allowing hybrids to travel congestion charge free. Most of us know that Toyota Prius, even though a 1600cc car, did not have particularly good fuel efficiency figures, and how the Lexus hybrid based on a 3L engine was ever conceived as a "green" car totally baffles me. Most cars entering London have probably done significant mileage using fuel to charge the batteries, which subsequently gets used when in slow moving traffic within the City. So what about the pre-battery use pollution?

It makes perfect sense to me then, that the UN have spotted this oversight, one which most of us will have recognised anyway, and mpg figures are thus required.

You may think at this point my gripe is concluded, with the hydrogen fuel cell vehicle appearing to be ahead of the battery powered vehicle, and to some degree this is true. However, Auto Express carried out a survey of how green producing electricity for a battery powered vehicle actually is. For the NICE Car Ze-0 it would require an equivalent of 112.1 gms/km of CO2 which is more than a Ford Fiesta 1.4 TDCi, and as for Chevy's Volt car it was 124.2 gms/km of CO2, which is greater than a BMW 118d

So the same question could then be asked of the Hydrogen required for the fuel celled vehicles. In the Top Gear program, hydrogen was priced in the US as equivalent to that of their unleaded petrol. But how environmentally friendly is Hydrogen production?

So is the new technology greener? – make up your own mind, I'm as confused as hell.

## The Association of Car Enthusiasts

In November we had the final decision from the FIVA (Fédération Internationale des Véhicules Anciens) as to what constitutes a Historic Vehicle.

According to this body an historic (AKA Classic) car is this...

- It is at least 30 years old;
- It is preserved and maintained in a historically correct condition;
- It is not used as a means of daily transport;
- It is therefore a part of our technical and cultural heritage.

You may be asking why this declaration from a French organisation that you may have never heard of is important.

The FIVA are the body that the European Union consult when they want advice on Classic car matters in much the same way as VOSA and DVLA consult recognized car clubs, so this definition actually carries more weight than may at first appear to be so.

It's the kind of thing that the EU uses to frame directives that affect the continued used of 'old' vehicles on public roads.

An example of this comes from Germany, where Historic vehicles are to be exempt from restrictions in the Low Emission Zones to be created in many German cities.

Bearing in mind that FIVA only announced their definition on November 10, this was published on the website of ADAC, the German equivalent of the AA, on the 19th

*Historic vehicles registered in Germany and carrying an "H" or a red "07" historic car licence plate are exempt from*

*the emissions labeling regulation and do not require a sticker to access low-emission zones.*

*As a prerequisite, the vehicles must be at least 30 years old. And they have to be well-preserved. Inappropriate conversions will not be accepted – unless coeval modifications.*

Things sometimes move fast in politics.

The problem with this definition is that it automatically excludes a very large number of vehicles, not just 'Modified' ones, which are not in a Historically correct condition but also those that cover high mileages and/or may be used for daily transport.

While it is understandable that FIVA and our own Federation of Historic British Vehicle Clubs (FHBVC) want to minimise the perceived threat to the environment and maximise the leniency in regulations on Classic car use by emphasising the small number and limited use that these vehicles are put to they are automatically disenfranchising many enthusiasts.

Enjoy your vehicle, whatever you drive.

## The ACE Team





# CLASSIC ADS

