



BACKFIRE

www.northwestcasualclassics.com
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April 2009

Chairman's Word

Aloha !!! to all Members,

Well, I don't think we could have had a better day weather wise for our trip to the Swettenham Arms on the 15th March, a decent turn out of Motors moved off from the truck stop at 12-30 in convoy headed by Dave Espley in Albert's Mercedes on the run organised by Mike Bennett, (who was there one minute in the Frog Eyed Sprite and then disappeared near High Leigh garden centre, I found out later that he had motor trouble and pulled into the centre), I hope you got it sorted Mike as I pulled into the car park there on my way home to see if you needed any help.

Anyway, Dave got us to our destination and didn't have to divert via Birmingham Ha! Ha!, although I think we covered most of the Cheshire country lanes which is exciting to say the least when you drive a 2 Ton Cadillac.

On our arrival we were directed to a section of the car park which had been taped off for us after which we had lunch which, although a little on the expensive side was served up swiftly and tasted really great. Many thanks to Frances who owns the place and who, in fact has now become a member of our Club with her very smart 300 SL Mercedes, also I am sure that Our Maria will be organising an additional evening run to Swettenham throughout the Summer.

Our next Club trip out is on the 26th April for Drive it Day Ferry to Ferry but I think some of us are at The Blackpool Classic Car Show at the Norbreck Castle Hotel on Bank Holiday Monday the 13th April, (Billy is setting out with his Taxi on Sunday Midnight Ha! Ha!)

Keep those Wagons rolling!!!!

Your Friendly Neighbourhood

Chairman.... John Wayne Greatbanks

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



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Next Meeting 12th May
Deadline for inclusion in next issue 5th May

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 Top Gear presenters Jeremy Clarkson, James May and Richard Hammond, were seen recently at an auction buying classic cars and concerns for the safety of the cars were, naturally, raised. The cars in they bought were an Austin-Healey “Frogeye” Sprite, a Citroën Ami and a Lanchester 14. Fears were that they may end up like so many others, ie, wrecked. However, it seems as if fears were unfounded as they have been spotted on an overseas rally in Mallorca. They appear to have survived just about intact and had some tasteful modifications applied.

Scrap the Scrappage

You may have heard, or read, about the government’s latest brainstorm concerning classic cars. In case you haven’t, what they are thinking about is offering a bribe to owners of older cars to have their vehicle scrapped and the money put towards a new car. This is obviously a result of pressure from manufacturers to try to increase sales.

There is growing opposition to the “scrappage” scheme, not only from classic car circles but also from unlikely quarters. First off, a Green Party spokesman said some 15% of the total energy associated with the car is in its manufacture and doubling a car’s life reduced its lifetime energy-use by 42%. The Environmental Transport Association had a similar view. A spokesman said “Car scrap-

ping schemes are good for boosting new car sales, they have little to do with the environment and to suggest otherwise is misleading”.

The scheme is running in Germany where consumer demand has been so strong that dealers are reporting that the programme, costing €1.5bn, may run out over Easter. It has attracted 570,000 new buyers – close to the government’s ceiling of 600,000. The interesting sidelight to this is the way that such schemes have moved away from being a ‘Green’ initiative, to being an Economic one. How quickly things change.

Britain’s Best Drives

If you missed the TV programmes starring Richard Wilson (Victor Meldrew), you can now see the whole series on DVD. He was seen driving, amongst others, a MkII Zodiac, Morris Minor Traveller and a Volkswagen microbus.

Richard was travelling scenic routes of Britain as described by a 1950s travel guide. He hadn’t driven a manual gear change for thirty years, so had to have some tuition before being unleashed on the road. He coped quite well with the old gearboxes, although there were some cringe-worthy moments as he crunched the odd gear or two. A classic moment was when, with a car full of Goths in Whitby, he stalled on a hill and couldn’t start again. One of the Goths had to take over to get the car going again. You can order your copy of the DVD online at www.bbcshop.com.

Trouble shooting to save money and time.

by Dave Espley

I saved a fortune and a lot of hassle recently by using the old grey matter and not rushing into repairing the Daimler VDP.

The normally reliable VDP suddenly overheated badly on a trip out to Accrington to buy, would you believe it, a water pump for the project V12 Coupe. I had to call the AA and a very helpful AA man arrived with the flat back to get me home. He had tested the radiator water and, on finding evidence of burnt hydrocarbons in the water (that's burnt petrol to you and me), concluded that the head gasket had failed or it might have a hairline crack in the head between the water side and the combustion side.

This made sense to me at the time. Realising that a mechanical strip down could lead to sheared head bolts and great grief and expense, I decided to try some "Special Additive treatment" to seal any failing gasket or cracks. After being advised to try a second "Dose" when things were no better I ended up

spending nearly £80 on the Magic treatment.

Damn!! Still overheating badly. Why o why didn't I just remove the thermostat to see if I had a coolant flow problem? This would have been a first move when I was a poor young lad; but no I accepted the recommendations of the expert and went to plan B.

One new stat later (less than £6) and the old girl ran like a good un. Conclusion was that yes, maybe a pin hole or hairline crack was allowing enough combustion gases to be detected in the Cooling water, but this wasn't the cause of the sudden overheating.

I haven't retested the Water to see if combustion gases are still getting in there but my philosophy is don't poke around if it's working fine.

Moral of story? Start with the very simplest and basic tests before jumping in with wallet opened.



Club Events 2009

26th April - Drive It Day Run

10th May - Cholmondley Castle

30th & 31st May - Tatton Park

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

CLUB DISCOUNTS



Orford Green, Warrington

It would appear that the discount facility at Andrew Page has ended. Simon, who we asked for, has moved to another branch and the remaining staff don't know anything about any discount facility.

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**

The First Event Swettenham Arms



For our first event of the year we had a suggestion by Maria to have a run out one

Sunday to a country pub for lunch. The name of The Swettenham Arms came up, which wasn't too far away but far enough for a mini road run. So, between Maria, Mike



and Dave we had an event. Meeting at the Lymm Services, routes were handed out

and we set out in convoy. Through leafy lanes and country side we meandered and arrived in Swettenham minus



one Frogeye Sprite, which had broken down on the way (hope it wasn't too

serious Mike). The pub couldn't be more country than this place as it seems to be in a cul-de-sac in the village. You just don't spot it as you're passing.

When we arrived, a couple of members were already there and an area of the car park had been

cordoned off for us. A few other classics were also there as the pub had put the event on their web site as a general classic car show, and there was also a few classics in the main car



park. Still, it made the day more interesting having some different cars than usual to look at.

The weather really makes or breaks outings like this and I'm pleased to say that, for once, it was in our favour. Bright, dry and clear blue sky for the day made



us all cheerful while checking out each other's cars. Members of the public were loving the surprise show that they had stumbled on and the car park was quite busy. The landlady even brought out her own car, a very nice Mercedes SL. I believe she is now a member of the club.

It was soon time to eat and we tramped in to get settled down. As John says, on page one, the prices were a little on the high side, but it was very nice so I suppose you get what you pay for.

All too soon it was time to head for home so some of us formed a little convoy and travelled home together to round off the day nicely.

Twelve of the finest (unintentional) double-entendres ever aired on British TV and radio

1. Ted Walsh - Horse Racing Commentator - 'This is really a lovely horse. I once rode her mother.'

2. New Zealand Rugby Commentator - 'Andrew Mehrstens loves it when Daryl Gibson comes inside of him.'

3. Pat Glenn, weightlifting commentator - 'And this is Gregoriava from Bulgaria . I saw her snatch this morning and it was amazing!'

4. Harry Carpenter at the Oxford-Cambridge boat race 1977 - 'Ah, isn't that nice. The wife of the Cambridge President is kissing the Cox of the Oxford crew.'

5. US PGA Commentator - 'One of the reasons Arnie (Arnold Palmer) is playing so well is that, before each tee shot, his wife takes out his balls and kisses them Oh my god !! What have I just said??'

6. Carezza Lewis about finding food in the Middle Ages on 'Time Team Live' said: 'You'd eat beaver if you could get it.'

7. A female news anchor who, the day after it was supposed to have snowed and didn't, turned to the weatherman and asked, 'So Bob, where's that eight inches you promised me last night?' Not only did HE have to leave the set, but half the crew did too, because they were laughing so hard!

8. Steve Ryder covering the US Masters:

'Ballesteros felt much better today after a 69 yesterday.'

9. Clair Frisby talking about a jumbo hot dog on 'Look North' said: 'There's nothing like a big hot sausage inside you on a cold night like this.'

10 Mike Hallett discussing missed snooker shots on 'Sky Sports': 'Stephen Hendry jumps on Steve Davis's misses every chance he gets.'

11. Michael Buerk on watching Philippa Forrester cuddle up to a male astronomer for warmth during BBC1's UK eclipse coverage remarked: 'They seem cold out there. They're rubbing each other and he's only come in his shorts.'

12. Ken Brown commentating on golfer Nick Faldo and his caddie Fanny Sunesson lining-up shots at the Scottish Open: 'Some weeks Nick likes to use Fanny; other weeks he prefers to do it by himself.'

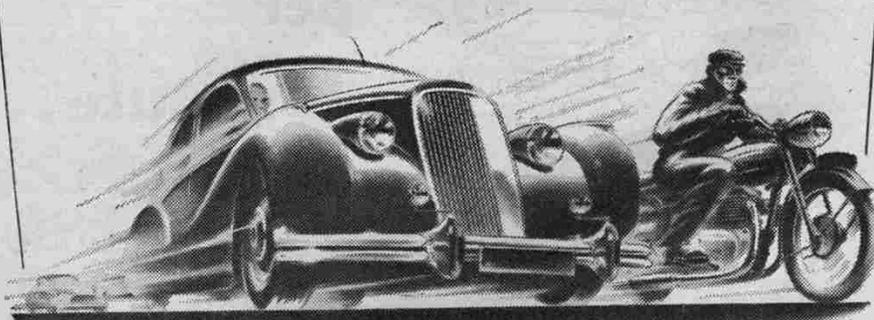
Thanks to Maurice Howard

The most beautiful car of all time

What's the most beautiful car of all time? A multi-million pound Ferrari or the curvy Jaguar E-type perhaps? No, it is now officially Citroën's humble DS, the car most famous for saving President De Gaulle from assassination. That was the verdict when Classic & Sports Car magazine polled a jury of the world's leading car designers to nominate the most gorgeous cars ever.

CLASSIC ADS

Castrol always leads!



1ST in 1935 with additive to reduce cylinder wear
British Patent No. 423441. Also see National Physical Laboratory Report 12/1/35

1ST in 1935 with a mild detergent to clean the engine itself
British Patent No. 431066

1ST in 1938 to announce lighter oils for easy starting, quick getaway and petrol economy
See National Physical Laboratory Report 2/9/38

1ST in 1949 with improved inhibitors to protect the oil itself
British Patent Nos. 658243—658183

1ST in 1951 with hypoid axle oils containing anti-scuffing additive and rust and corrosion inhibitors
covered by:—British Patent Nos. 561898—561941—588864

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