



**North West  
Casual Classics**

# **BACKFIRE**

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

**May 2013**



**Drive It Day**



**Waterside**



# COMMITTEE

**Chairman - Nigel France**  
chairman@northwestcasualclassics.com

**Vice-Chairman - Kenny Jackson**  
vicechairman  
@northwestcasualclassics.com

**Treasurer - Rob Smith**  
member@northwestcasualclassics.com

**Events - Ian Trimble**  
events@northwestcasualclassics.com

**Newsletter - Steve Tanser**  
01925 727120 steve.tanser@sky.com

**Web Site - Mike Bennett**  
webmaster@northwestcasualclassic.com

**Member Vehicles - Joe Gowland**  
joegowland@lineone.net

**Ferry Show - Sue & Barrie Thomas**  
0161 3366983  
suetomas1@talktalk.net

## Next Meeting

## 11th June

### ***CLUB DISCOUNTS***



Car Parts, equipment and consumables. [www.cesuk.com](http://www.cesuk.com)  
or tel: 01244 377 118. Quote account no. NWC003



Orford Green, Warrington

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

### 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,

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.

# Chairman's Chatter

Hi All.

As I write it's sunny and warm. We, that is, myself and the present Mrs France have just returned from the inaugural run in the Stag. Yes it's back, up and running.

Anne and I set off to Llandudno on Friday 3rd of May. We arrived without incident and headed to our 'digs', a little hotel in the Conway Valley. On arrival the news was good, we had been upgraded! Hooray, what a fantastic room, with view down the Valley. The weather was little overcast at this time but after a couple of halves in a nearby pub (the Ty Gwyn in Rowen ) it was back to our hotel for our evening meal.

On Saturday morning it was still cloudy and after the 'Full Welsh' we set off to the Llandudno Transport Show. Booking for this event is free but essential. This is a truly massive gathering of trucks, buses, tractors, vans and classic cars. Some autojumble, tools and the usual stalls were in evidence. The buses and coaches are put to the use of which they were intended, namely shifting folk about. You can get a free ride into Llandudno to visit the 'Victorian Extravaganza'. The main street (Mostyn St) is closed to traffic and becomes a massive fairground for the weekend including some steam powered rides. During Saturday afternoon the cavalcade of steam road transport wows the crowds and that in itself is a magnificent sight. Back at the Transport Show petrol-heads were getting what they came for, a diverse range of all things internally combusted, restored and unrestored with examples of most makes and a few oddballs. A large contingent of vehicles made the sea crossing via Hollyhead from the Emerald Isle. It is nice to see some different cars than the ones we often see doing the rounds. At this point it is only fair to mention the hardy souls who took on the perilous journey from Penketh, fellow members of NWCC are always a welcome sight. Regarding the food, well the best grub is in the farm at the top of the field. Fresh burgers, sausages and steak are available cooked on their barbeque as is a good brew, coffee and the odd glass of real ale! Sunday is always the busier day with a lot more cars to see. We usually come home on Sunday afternoon as the traffic on Bank Holiday on the A55 is a bit of a carpark. Next Friday we are off to Ludlow to the Marches Transport and food festival. As an entrant last year I can tell you that the food is fantastic as is the real ale and also in evidence is the humble PIE!!

As I write Joe tells me he could really do with a bit more help at the Fiddlers Ferry Show. Please, if you are going to the Show spare some time to help. Don't leave it to someone else. Give your name to Joe tonight.

**Cheers Nigel.**



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## Bits 'n Pieces

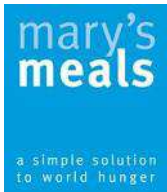
For club polo/sweat shirts contact Kosi Kare and ask for Mel. Tell her your a member of NWCC and choose which design you want. Standard club colours are blue or white but you can have the club logo on any colour, eg: to match your car. Contact Kosi Kare on 01942 323868.

For other products you can shop online at [www.kosikare.co.uk/](http://www.kosikare.co.uk/).

### For Hire

Towing dolly truck. £30 per day + £15 refundable deposit or collection/delivery at £1 per mile. £5 donation to club funds for each booking.

Ring Brian 01928 820631 or mobile 07765050374.



For more information of this charity to raise living standards of children in third world countries see Sue Thomas or go to [www.marysmeals.org](http://www.marysmeals.org)

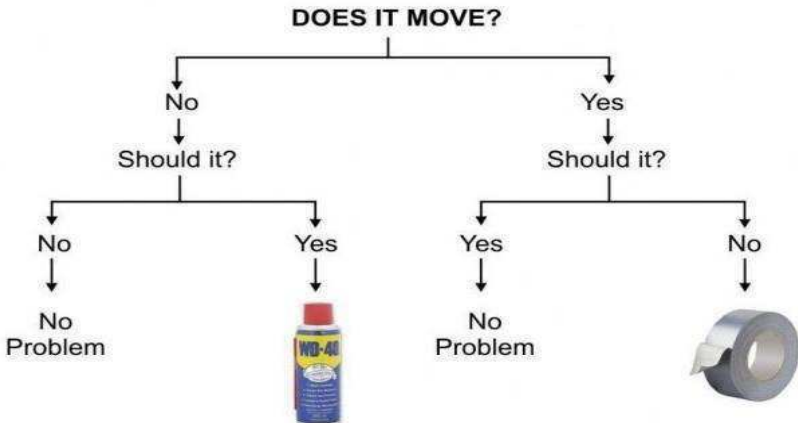
## Wedding Hire Turnaround

The Law Commission has recommended that wedding and funeral hire should remain exempt from the taxi type licensing regulations. David Jones of the National Association of Wedding Car Professionals has said that 92% of their members had indicated that they would have to close their business if this had passed into law.

The Law Commission's recommendation still has to be finalised by the Home Secretary, but its unlikely to be ignored.

The Citroën CX was originally designed to be a rotary-engined car.

## Engineering Flowchart



# Club Events

June 1st/2nd - Tatton Park

June 8th - Hale Carnival

June 23rd - Lymm Festival

June 29th - Warrington Market

June 30th - Ferry Show

July 20/21st - Speke Hall

Aug 3rd - Newton-le-Willows

Aug 17th/18th - Tatton Park

Sept 1st - Cholmondeley Castle

## Drive It Day

I was particularly encouraged this year with the number of entrants to the drive it day run. At



twenty three, it was the most we had ever had. The long range weather forecast wasn't too bad either. Jill and I did the usual check of the route, including a slight detour to avoid the cycle race through Acton Bridge village, and to book us into the Eastham Ferry Hotel for lunch. However, we weren't allowed to book such a large number on a Sunday, their busiest day, so we decided we would go anyway and take our chances on us all sitting together.

The morning of the run, though chilly, was dry and everyone was in good spirits. On the way we



had to stop to put petrol in the Humber and watched everyone pass us. From then on to the first stop we were playing catch-up and only caught an occasional glimpse of a car in the distance.

The Lady Heyes Centre was our first stop for coffee/ba

con  
butty/brea  
kfast and  
a look  
around.

There are  
antique  
and craft  
shops, a  
micro-  
brewery,



second hand book and record shops and a candle shop. This is worth a look in itself and is owned by ex-entertainer Bob Carolgees of Spitz The Dog fame.

The second half of the run skirted around Delamire and crossed over and under the M56 and M53 to



come out near the Cheshire Oaks retail park. Unfortunately, the weather decided to take a turn for the worst and the rain started. After passing through Ellesmere Port we drove into Eastham village and arrived at the Ferry Hotel about mid-day, just as the rain was stopping. The staff were surprised with so many of us, but, to their credit, fitted us in ok and we had an excellent lunch.

## Are you a victim of Britain's growing pothole menace?



The state of Britain's roads is deteriorating and increasing numbers of vehicles are suffering damage from hitting potholes, according to a new report. The latest annual road survey published by the Asphalt Industry Alliance (AIA) shows that the national pothole crisis is worsening. The AIA says there are now more than 2 million potholes in England and Wales, up 18 per cent from 1.7 million last year. Meanwhile, £32 million has been paid out in compensation to motorists in the past 12 months, an annual increase of more than 50 per cent.

### Putting an end to 'patch and mend'

It costs on average £53 to fill a pothole, and last year the bill for repairing roads came to £117 million, the report shows. The AIA says that the statistics show that the current "patch and mend" system just isn't working. Instead, the organisation is calling for action from central government to introduce longer-term funding, allowing councils to introduce preventative maintenance systems. But until a system is devised to reduce the number of potholes, more and more of our vehicles will be damaged by unrepaired roads.

## Claiming compensation

So if you are affected, how do you go about claiming compensation? First, you'll need to contact the body responsible for the road – in the case of motorways and major A roads, that will be the Highways Agency, and for other roads it's normally the local council. The website [Potholes.co.uk](http://Potholes.co.uk) is a very useful resource for taking you through the claim process, and offers advice and success stories.

## Gather vital evidence

It's important to gather as much information as you can from the scene of the incident. So when you're aware your vehicle has been damaged, pull over if safe and make a note of the date, time and location of the accident. Take photographs both of the pothole and your vehicle, ask for the details of any witnesses, and make a note of any CCTV cameras. If you can't do this at the time then return as soon as possible afterwards.

## Beat the council's defence

Many councils and highways agencies will try to get out of making payouts by citing Section 58 of the Highways Act 1980. This counters claims on the basis that they have taken reasonable measures to ensure that road problems such as potholes are found and dealt with swiftly. However, under the The Freedom of Information Act you have the right to ask the council when a road was last inspected or had work carried out. It's free and relatively simple to put forward this Freedom of Information request and the council is legally required to provide these details within 20 working days. Comparing this with the national code of good practice for highway maintenance and showing that the local authority has fallen short will counter its defence.



## Car insurance

If you've got fully comprehensive car insurance, it's possible to claim against that for pothole damage to your vehicle. However, this will count as an at-fault claim and affect your no-claims bonus, so it's worth calculating the benefit of having the car repaired relatively promptly against the longer-term effect on your premiums.

## On-going problem

With underfunding of road maintenance an on-going issue, the pothole problem isn't going to go away overnight. However, in the meantime it's worth reporting potholes you see to the relevant authorities. Many of them do want to fix potholes as soon as possible and welcome the public's help in spotting them. You can report them via your local council or Highways Agency, or through Potholes.co.uk. The website Fillthathole.org.uk is linked with CTC, the national cycling charity, but can be used by motorists as well. It passes complaints on to the relevant authority, and if you have an iPhone you can download the FillThatHole app and report potholes from the kerbside.

## What do you think?

Have you noticed the state of Britain's roads getting worse?

Have you tried to claim for pothole damage to your car?

You can share your views on the message board below.

**Read more:** <http://www.confused.com/car-insurance/articles/are-you-a-victim-of-britains-growing-pothole-menace>

# Waterside



# Backside

