



North West  
Casual Classics



# BACKFIRE

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August 2015

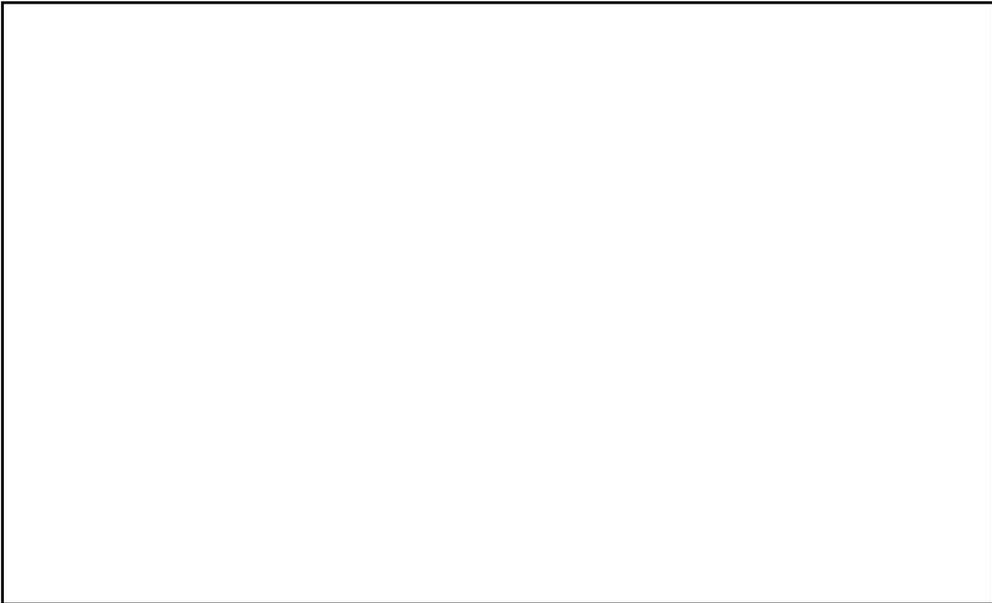
## Lymm Historic Transport



## John Greatbanks Night



That's a fail, huh?



Next Meeting  
8th Sept

***CLUB DISCOUNTS***



Car Parts, equipment and consumables. [www.cesuk.com](http://www.cesuk.com)  
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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

August is with us and still no sign of Summer. I seem to remember my predecessor, Russ, starting one of his August Chatters with the same line! Those long, hot days don't seem to have appeared so far. The Speke Show however, was blessed with two glorious days and was two of the best days I can remember with NWCC. Frodsham and Newton Town Shows were disappointing in that the rain spoilt some things somewhat. The laughs still kept coming if it was only watching Derek trying to put his umbrella up!!

For those of you who were not at the Frodsham School Mini-meet, I arrived in the Stag with an overheating problem! As all the world knows by now I am using a waterless coolant as an experiment so members will know if it's any good. The coolant is fine but the system seems to be pressurizing and blowing coolant back into the reservoir. The thermostat was stuck closed but this was a side issue. I've done a compression test and three of the cylinders are not up to the mark. Two on the left and one on the right. It's back into the workshop for a heads off inspection. We put the heads on dry last time and I seem to remember back in the day that I often used Red Hermetite for all gasket joints, although it seems to be called Hylotyte these days. The heads have already been skimmed some time ago and I don't think I can go down that road again as the inlet manifold probably won't fit anymore if I do. Gasket sealing compound is my next plan. Watch this space . . . . .

The Austin 16 is making sure Anne and I are not 'Hors-de-combat' and we ventured out to the Didsbury Car Show. This is a very varied affair with pre-WW2 cars rubbing shoulders with modern supercars. Our friends at the 3 Graces C C always put on a good selection of cars but it is mostly individual exhibitors. I drove the Austin and Anne followed in the Volvo, not that I should have worried they both ran beautifully. The Austin attracted a lot of attention, as did the 850R. People seem to like the Austin's colour and often ask if it's the original, well it is. We also drove to the Newton Town Show in the Austin, this time without an escort. It's lovely to drive even though she wanders about a bit! It does take a little longer to get anywhere though so we'll set off a bit earlier to Tatton.

## Cheers Nigel

# Lymm Transport Day



This is the third year of this great event and it was bigger than ever taking over the whole village, and more.



Some classic vehicles drive to the field in convoy from the Wheatshief and Old No. 3 pubs.



The display field this time, as well as the classic cars, bikes, model planes, food and stalls also included live music all afternoon.



A mixture of rock & roll, for-



ties and sixties era kept lots of people on their feet. The classic car display was, as usual, a very varied assortment giving the opportunity to see cars you don't often see at other shows.



Walking around the village (those displaying get a free entry wrist band for other exhibits) there was something



to see around every corner. Various halls had model railway exhibitions and, new for this year, one had a radio controlled car racing layout for visitors to try their hand.

In previous years there has always been a few steam traction engines attending, but this year there was a full display in the village hall car park. With this right next to the canal full of barges and narrow boats, some of which are still working, it was an idyllic scene.

If you want a great day out, with plenty of variety, I'd recommend going to Lymm next year. You won't regret it.

# Events

Aug 15th Woodlands

Aug 22/23rd - Tatton Park

Aug 30th - Ormskirk

Aug 31st Hope Farm, Halebank

Sept 6th - St.Roccas Show

Sept 12/13th - East Lancs Railway

Sept 13th - Walton Hall

Sept 26/27th - Widnes

## Bits 'n Pieces

### New Car Electrics

A piece in this month's Classics Monthly magazine covers a problem with working on new cars. The car in question was a 2008 Vauxhall Zafira diesel which had a flat battery. No problem, thought the owner, I'll just connect a booster and away we go. It wasn't quite as simple as that, however, as the ECU 'opens' to allow a flatter battery to start the car. This also removes the ECU protection against high voltage spikes and can result in a fried ECU.

The car did start but when the ignition was turned off it wouldn't start again because the ECU had shut down the whole car, permanently. The result was a bill for £1200 for fitting and coding a new ECU.



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)

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### Classic Car Thefts

Classic car theft now seems to be 'a sad fact of life' according to one of the UK's top historic vehicles experts in the police. It's now at the point where one is being stolen 'virtually every day'.

The FBHVC is calling for a database of classic car crimes to be set up and Simon Barrett, a West Midlands crime prevention officer and advisor on classic car theft to the FBHVC said: "We fully support the idea for this database. Anything which helps is a good thing. We need to increase people's awareness".

One car club is advising members that social media, such as Facebook and Twitter is good for publicity.

A spokesman for insurer Footman James said: "We would certainly look at supporting this idea in any way we can".

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### Thanks to Joe Gowland for this month's Backside picture.

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Formula 1 great Juan Manuel Fangio's body was exhumed last week to take DNA samples in a bid to resolve paternity cases brought by two men claiming to be sons of the five times world champion.

## **UK Top Ten most expensive number plates**

10 - '1 O' - £210,242 - An anonymous bidder in 2009

9 - 'K1 NGS': £231,000 - Sold in 1993 to a private buyer, maybe an Arab Sultan

8 - '1 RH': £247,000 - Businessman Robert Harverson in 2006

7 - '51 NGH': £254,000 – Sold to a Sikh man in 2006.

6. 'VIP 1': £285,000 - Roman Abramovich, the Russian oil billionaire and Chelsea FC owner.

5. 'M 1': £331,500 – 2006 to mobile phone mogul Mike McCoomb who claimed it was for his 10 year old son. The plate was sold to raise money for Tatton Park in Cheshire.

4. '1 D': £352,000 - Acquired by a Lebanese businessman, Nabil Bishara.

3. 'S 1': £404,000 - Scotlands first ever number plate bought back in 2008 by an anonymous bidder.

2. 'F 1': £440,000 – Bought in 2008 by businessman Afzal Khan from Bradford.

1. '25 O': £518,000 - Bought by Ferrari dealer John Collins in 2014.

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### **Thousands More Cars Clamped**

The number of cars having their wheels clamped has risen by more than 500%, in some areas, since the government scrapped the tax disc with almost 75,000 vehicles immobilised.

It's believed that many are being caught out by the new rules that a vehicles tax becomes invalid as soon as the DVLA are informed of the change of ownership. Many of the vehicles clamped have also found to be uninsured.

Labour's shadow transport secretary Michael Dugher said: "It's clear that this number of people getting their car clamped is down to widespread lack of awareness of the government's changes to vehicle tax rules".

However, a DVLA spokesman said: "The changes to vehicle tax have been widely publicised and we write to every vehicle keeper to inform them of the new rules when the tax expires. In addition we also write to every new vehicle keeper, when they buy a used vehicle, to remind them that they must tax the vehicle before they can use it. If they don't, they become eligible for enforcement action".

# John Greatbanks Night



What a great selection of cars turned out for the 2015 John Greatbanks award meeting, with old members, new members and one or two non-members taking a



look at us. We filled, and overflowed, the club car park no doubt partly because of the fine, evening weather.



A few we have rarely, or never, seen were there including Nigel's Austin 16 on its first showing and a trio of Capris. When the votes were counted the winner was Eddy Brown with his immaculate and very original Ford Capri 3 Litre S.



# Backside

