



North West
Casual Classics



BACKFIRE

www.northwestcasualclassics.com

www.facebook.com/northwestcasualclassics

November 2015



PLEASE NOTE

The December meeting will include the AGM and an extended raffle, plus a quiz. Therefore the meeting will commence at 7.30pm. in order to include everything.

CLUB DISCOUNTS

**Next Meeting
8th December**



Car Parts, equipment and consumables. 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

The shows are at an end for another year save the Boxing Day Meet and meal left. What a fantastic year it's been for all at North West Casual Classics with shows, runs and the odd meal. I hope you have enjoyed it all as much as Anne and I have. Now as we go into the winter months the spanners and spray guns will be broken out and pressed into service. Only classic car owners know why we wait until the coldest time of the year to get holed up in a draughty garage with fan heaters and old towels stuffed along the bottom of the doors!



The Austin is without bumpers and grill at the mo as I decided to get them re-chromed. The front bumper is a bit pitted but the back one is flaking quite badly underneath. I took them up to Leigh Polishers in Swinton, the grill they didn't want to do as it is some sort of cast metal and they said it may possibly get broken. The bumpers would be £300 each! Ouch. I do have a lead on a full set of re-chromed items for an Austin 16 so I'm pursuing that.

I've taken the 'Mellow tone' horns off the Stag and replaced them with some 70's items. This is so I can fit them to the Austin. They are more 'Parp Parp' than the 'Eeee-ow' that is the present sound. They will have to fit under/inside the nose cone and to that end I have removed that item as well. I have fabricated a substantial bracket for the job.

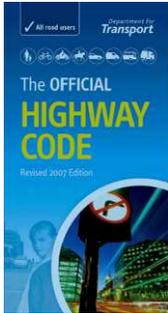
The Stag is without it's air box which along with the cam covers I was going to get powder coated. However, the guy at The Wheel Specialist said that it would be better to paint them as the coating would find its way onto the mating surfaces and might not seal satisfactorily. So it's a paint job then!

Nigel at the workshop has had a bereavement in his family. His father Robert died on Friday 30th aged 86. Robert was a classic car/bike fan and it is his wish that there should be classic cars at his funeral so an unpainted air box will have to be refitted to the Stag so it can put in an appearance. Robert was often seen on his BSA even up to a couple of years ago. Also in his garage was an Austin Healey 3000 which he had championed around Oulton Park and other race courses back in the day. Nigel took over the racing with some success. Robert would take on some long distance events, taking part in rallies to the South of France! Latterly the 3000 has been exhibited on the Austin Healey stand at Tatton Park and Event City in Manchester.

Next month is the AGM so the present committee will be disbanded, so now is the time if you wish to offer your services to speak up. Our social secretaries Eileen and Alan have organised food for this years AGM and there will also be a raffle in aid of Martin Stott Alder Hey Hospital equipment fund. I hope you will be able to attend. Why not bring a friend?

Cheers Nigel

Highway Code



LESS THAN a quarter of drivers bother to read the Highway Code after passing their test, claims a new survey. Of 400 people asked, only 23% said they'd picked up the UK's book of road laws since ditching their L-plates, and now the Driver and Vehicle

Standards Agency (DVSA) has stepped in.

The DVSA is encouraging drivers to follow its Highway Code Twitter and Facebook accounts to receive regular updates and reminders about road rules. Seeing them more regularly will help drivers remember their rights and obligations on the road, it is hoped. At present there are 38,000 people following the Highway Code Facebook page and 50,000 followers on Twitter.

The DVSA has also issued a new online version of the rules, which 'makes it easier to keep up to date with the Highway Code.' Elsewhere in the survey results 63% of people said they had used the roads differently since signing up for Highway Code updates, and 94% said they would recommend the service to family and friends.

Transport Minister, Lord Ahmad, said: "The Highway Code is essential reading for all road users – not just those who are learning to drive. It's now easier than ever to keep up to date with the Highway Code and the rules of the road.

"Making sure all road users keep their skills and knowledge up to date will help to keep Britain's roads amongst the safest in the world."

Rare Classics

THERE may be 30 million cars on Britain's roads, but some models that will still be fresh in many memories have all-but disappeared. The RAC has delved into the DVLA's records to pick out 10 memorable models that are on the verge of disappearing forever.

10. Citroen BX

Examples remaining in 1995: 171,478. Examples left today: 495

9. Talbot Sunbeam

Examples remaining in 1995: 5,261. Examples left today: 440

8. Austin Maestro

Examples remaining in 1995: 75,674. Examples left today: 324

7. Morris Marina

Examples remaining in 1995: 9,331. Examples left today: 289

6. Vauxhall Chevette

Examples remaining in 1995: 37,798. Examples left today: 238

5. Vauxhall Senator

Examples remaining in 1995: 25,799. Examples left today: 167

4. Datsun Cherry

Examples remaining in 1995: 66,723. Examples left today: 93

3. Lada Riva

Examples remaining in 1995: 56,898. Examples left today: 60

2. Austin Princess

Examples remaining in 1995: 3,235. Examples left today: 45

1. Austin Ambassador

Examples remaining in 1995: 5,532. Examples left today: 17

Events

9th Dec -AGM

26th Dec - Lymm Steam

2016

1st Jan - Briars Hall

24th Jan - Club Meal

24th Apr - Drive It Day

11th June - Hale Carnival

7th Sept - St. Rocco's TBC



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

Thanks to Russ for the Backfire picture this month.

The British Penny

European Union Directive No. 456179

In order to bring about further integration with the single European currency, the Euro, all citizens of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland must be made aware that the phrase "Spending a Penny" is not to be used after 31 December 2015.

From this date onwards, the correct term will be: "Euronating".

It is hoped that this will be a great relief to everyone

Thanks to Chris Lee.

Bits 'n Pieces

Insurance Hike

By the time you're reading this insurance premiums will have been increased because of a rise in insurance tax.

All insurance premiums are subject to a tax, previously set at 6%. From the beginning of November this rose to 9.5%; a whopping 58% rise.

This applies to all insurance, not just for road vehicles but, what is really galling is that the insurance we pay for our vehicles, whether classic or everyday, is compulsory so we are forced to pay the tax.

Of course, George Osborne tried to defend the increase by saying that it is still cheaper than many European countries. To me its yet another stealth tax to prop-up an incompetent government.

End of Testing

The Department of Transport has confirmed that it will be launching a consultation on proposals to end roadworthiness tests for tax exempt vehicles. This will, if implemented, follow the rolling exemption for historic vehicles.

Three possible options are to be put forward:-

- status quo
- basic road test for historic vehicles
- rolling exemption

The government, by 2018, must abolish the present MOT test and implement the EU's Roadworthiness Directive. This is based on the German method of testing which will be including on board diagnostics (OBD).

It may be that it would be difficult for UK garages to implement this and it would be easier to exempt older cars rather than make them impossible to test.

Ormskirk



This was our second visit to this popular transport event. After pouring over the mass of paper work we realised the Humber had been selected for the parade around the town. OK, I thought, it means a little later arrival because



of needing to park near the exit. We took our place on the park near the bandstand and managed to get alongside Mal Brown and his Jeep. All other NWCC members at the show were spread around in different places, whether in other parts of the park, or in the town centre.

After parking, booking in was required followed, a little later, by another booking in for those on the parade. We stood around and waited for the police to arrive and, after half-an-hour, they finally arrived. One of the or-



ganisers gave us instructions for driving on the parade, then a member of the council repeated what

he said after which the police repeated it again. An hour standing around for a ten minute speech.

After lunch and a walk around looking at a large variety of vehicles we had to prepare for our part of the parade which, fortunately, went off without a hitch. Returning to our parking space, however,



proved to be more of a problem. A marshal seemed disinterested and said to 'just park were you can'. We tried to get around the end of the line to get to our original spot but a VW



van had decided to just stop and block the way. After he moved there was the people sat on the

grass, listening to the band, to get past. Eventually we got into a gap with no help from any marshals.

All that turned out to be more trouble than it was worth. One hour standing around to be told how to drive around the town, then totally ignored when trying to manoeuvre around seated people.

It was a very varied show and proves to be very popular with the public, and this year seemed busier than the last. I can't help thinking, though, that there is a disaster waiting to happen.



Hope Farm



WET, WET, WET. Once again, the organiser had bad luck with the



weather for this charity show. We all managed to get

parked up at one end of the field before the rain

started and put up the flags. At the other end were the stalls selling



home-made goodies and the tombola stalls, plus pony rides for the children.

We were only there for about an hour when a few spots of rain were felt, which came and went. Around lunch time, however, the rain got heavier which meant diving under



cover. There was a short break when I took the photos but



it didn't last for long. Some visitors braved it out but

we could see they were going home early.

This is a charming little show, in good weather, held to raise funds for the Macmillan Nurses and even though



visitor numbers were well down, around £2,500 was raised.

Apart from our car display and the stalls, there is also gymkhana and the stables are open to look at the horses and ponies.



Hopefully, the weather will be kinder for next year's event.



Backside

