

# *Hoosier's Old Motor Club*

**PRESIDENT:** RON FELLOWS 01424 445229

**CHAIRMAN:** RON WANMER 01323 840346

**VICE CHAIRMAN:** PAT WALKER 01424 845230

**SECRETARY:** JOHN BISHOP 01323 843202 ✓

**TREASURER:** RON SHRUBB 01323 767429

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:** ROBERT COOPER 01323 507135

**COMMITTEE:** ERIC ALLEN 01424 220275

GEORGE GRIFFIN 01323 642351

SAM ROLFE 01435 812477

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CHRIS ALLCHORN 01323 760687

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** JULIE SIMCOX 01323 423389



**February News 2009**

### *Cover Caption*

It occurred to me that I don't remember seeing an Austin Healey featured in the Club Newsletter, so in an attempt to put this right, I am enclosing a photo of the Healey posing with a backdrop of Goodwood

Alan Hodges

## **CLUB MEETINGS 2009**

*Please note this updated list as some events have changed since the last newsletter was published*

- 6th February** Video/DVD Evening (John B) in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.
- 6th March** President Ron's Postcard Quiz – something different – in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.
- 20th March** Annual Dinner at Highwoods Golf Club (ring 01323 843202 for details) at 7.00 for 7.30 p.m.
- 3rd April** AGM in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. – contact the Secretary 14 days beforehand for anything you wish to raise
- 1st May** The History of Austin (Reg Brook) in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.
- 5th June** ~~Quiz Evening~~ <sup>Bee's</sup> ~~in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. – Chris and Judy Alchorn in charge~~ <sup>Chris Home</sup>
- 3rd July** B-B-Q at The Homestead from 7.00 p.m. – bring your own meats, everything else supplied (£1 charge to help cover costs) – ladies in charge
- 1st August** Saturday (set up day – your help required please for about 2 hours from 10.00 a.m. in the Rally Field)
- 2nd August** **SHOW DAY** – please help clear the field after the show
- 4th September** Visit to Antony Hepburn Museum, Cowbeech House, Cowbeech at 7.30 p.m.
- 2nd October** Bring-and-buy sale – dig out those bits you don't need – in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.
- 6th November** John's Annual Film Show in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.
- 4th December** Christmas Party in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. Please help by bringing a little something. To make it different, this event will be FANCY DRESS (optional) – ladies in charge as usual!

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Firstly, I would like to wish everyone a very happy and prosperous New Year. The club has enjoyed another good year, both in club nights and our annual show. We seem to be doing the right things as other clubs ask how do we do it? Well, I can tell you it's a joint effort between the committee and the members that make it a success.

The Friday night in December was party night. I could not believe that when Sue and I got there at 6.45pm all the work had been done. It was told that it was a joint effort. Thanks to all the ladies – and not forgetting the men – who put on a wonderful spread. There is only one complaint from me – the evening went too quickly!

Entertainment came in the form of Chris and John. Is there no end to their talent? Tadpole and Terrance also contributed to the fun and I look forward to this year's performance. Thank you all.

Thanks also go to Sue and Vicky, for once again organising an excellent raffle. I don't know how they do it, with a prize for everyone.

Our committee work hard throughout the year supporting and helping run the club and it is appreciated. Ron, our chairman, worked so hard on the show day and helped make it another successful event. He also organised the coach trip in January, which again made a profit. Thanks Ron for all you do.

Secretary, John, as well as assisting Ron, provides us with interesting videos for our evenings at the hall. Treasurer, Ron S, does a good job of keeping our funds safe and ensures we don't drift into the red. He also organises our Barnsgate lunch, and has so far managed to organise good weather to go with it.

Julie, our editor, has the demanding job of keeping us up to date with the events over the year by way of the newsletter. As always, contributions are welcome from club members.

Jean and Ron kindly open their house and garden for us in July for the club's annual barbecue. A lot of work goes into organising this and I know everyone enjoys the event.

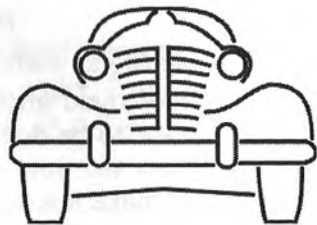
My final thank you goes to the ladies who keep us supplied with the much appreciated cups of tea on club nights and to their assistants who help with the washing up. What would we do if you went on strike?

I am sure everyone will continue doing their best in 2009 to keep the club running as smoothly as possible.

*Ron Fellows, President*

***David Tame passed away very suddenly in October. David was a staunch supporter of the Hooe Club and often contributed to this newsletter. He had a varied life and owned many different cars in the past. We shall miss him. Our condolences to his wife and family.***

# Ron's Ramblings



Congratulations to Elsa, Chris, Judy, Gerry and Julie who entered the RAM quiz – first again – WELL DONE!

The Barnsgate Lunch Run was attended by 28 members – a thoroughly enjoyable lunch, organised by Ron S. Not cheap, but very good eating and good company. THANK YOU RON!

Due to Maureen having just gone into hospital, John was not able to do the film show. The November meeting was taken up by our good friend Dave Homewood on a very interesting talk on his collection of phonographs, etc.

In December, Hooe members enjoyed a Charity Run and Dinner organised by the Austin A35 Club – an enjoyable event finishing up at the Horseshoe Inn, Windmill Hill. Over £100 was made for charity.

December saw yet again, a brilliant support of the ladies, of all things nice for the Christmas party. THANK YOU LADIES! Aably supported by the resident stars – the Chris and John duo; Brown Boots and Tadpole, and our Sue and Vicky with the quiz and raffle, etc – everyone gets a prize! I did, and I didn't even buy a ticket! Ah yes, Jean did! Our grateful thanks to everyone that participated to make it a very enjoyable evening. Sorry I was late, but in my defence, I was working for the club which hopefully might help us a little later on, we shall see?

Fifty five people applied for the January coach trip on a 49-seater coach to the Imperial War Museum, I finished up taking my car as well, so everyone was able to go. By the many nice comments, it was a very enjoyable day.

The AGM is coming up in April – any suggestions, improvements, or a new chairman – now is the time to come forward. Correspondence to the Secretary please.

New club badges are now available and will be at club meetings and can be purchased from Bob, Membership Secretary, for 60p each.

A sincere welcome to new members. I've said it before, but please forgive us due to age! I can't remember everyone's name – make yourself known. The club is built on friendship, everyone will be glad to know you.

The F.B.H.V.C. magazine is available to anyone who wishes to read it. The ongoing question of older vehicles and their use crops up yet again, but signs are that we are safe in the foreseeable future. You never know with the EU or our own government!

A new season now gets underway. Let's hope there's more sun this year! Well, whatever, make sure you enjoy it.

Our show entry forms are now ready and have been sent out by our hardworking marshals. It's now mid January and I have five trade stands back already! Entry forms are also arriving for other shows which I can copy if required. Amongst other events that I know about are the following:

The EHVC have a Treasure Hunt organised for 19<sup>th</sup> April "Drive It Day" – anyone interested! Details available from John 01323 843202

Ron Shrubbs is organising a charity run in May – date yet to be arranged – contact Ron on 01323 767429.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> October, there will be a Hailsham Rotary Charity Run starting at 11.00 a.m. from Shaws Harley Davidson at Golden Cross (details from Ron W)

Thank you Julie for the newsletter and please support the next newsletter due in October 2009.

Ron W.

### **WARNING!**

*The following is an extract from the FEDERATION OF BRITISH HISTORIC VEHICLE CLUBS newsletter regarding hiring a vehicle:*

*As the recent case reported below shows, it would be wise for anyone in the habit of hiring themselves and their car out for anything other than weddings to stop doing so and talk to their local authority.*

*The case was heard in a magistrate's court on 20<sup>th</sup> June. On 31<sup>st</sup> October last year police and local council staff stopped four classic and vintage vehicles. The drivers of each of the four chauffeur driven vehicles were cautioned and questioned. The drivers were transporting a group for a special occasion. None of the drivers held a private hire drivers licence; none of the four vehicles was licensed as a private hire vehicle and there was no licensed private hire operator. The insurance of all the vehicles had been compromised by the failure to comply with regulations. Three of the four drivers received points on their licences for driving without the correct insurance and the cars were impounded. The prosecution was taken against the fourth driver, who owned three of the cars, and his wife, who acted as the private hire operator.*

*The council had previously advised the couple, in writing, to licence their operation or risk prosecution, but they had not done so. In court they stated, in addition to this booking, they had completed several bookings for young people to travel to their school proms. The magistrates fined them a total of £1050 with £450 costs.*

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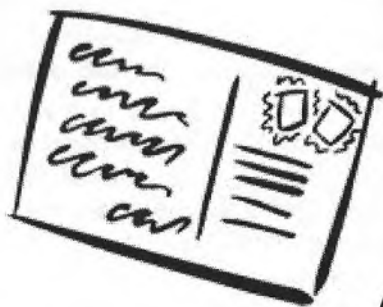
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Ron Fellows will be holding his President's Quiz on Friday 6th March 2009 and just to put you in the picture:

- Guess part of the picture of a postcard
- Other items to guess
- There will be two bottles of wine as prizes
- There's a small fee to enter but whatever the amount raised, Ron will double this to donate the whole to Children with Cancer

*Should be fun and won't be too hard!*



### Membership Renewal

Your Membership Renewal will be due at the AGM meeting in April, please bring along your Renewal Form, and not forgetting to quote your Membership Number. Membership of the club will be suspended if not paid by August at the very latest.

*Membership Secretary*

*At this time of the year, with Remembrance Sunday fresh in our minds, I thought my personal experience may be of interest to club members ...*

*In 2003, along with two friends, it was decided to go Disneyland Paris for one of their three day mid-week breaks. As I am retired, the only stipulation for the booking was not during school holidays because of the congestion. I also informed my companions that I would be diverting on the way home to the "Menin Gate" War Memorial in Ypres, Belgium to pay my respects to a grandfather who I never knew, killed in the 1914-18 war. His name appears on one of the columns along with 55,000 other names of people killed but sadly have no graves.*

*When I received confirmation of the random booking dates, I was somewhat taken to discover that the date for the return and planned visit to the Menin Gate was the anniversary of my grandfather's death i.e. 9<sup>th</sup> May 1915, 88 years earlier.*

*After a very enjoyable stay at Disneyland (where I saw my childhood and lifetime hero – Goofy), we set off for home on the Friday via the Menin Gate. On arrival at the memorial, I placed a poppy with blue-tac as near as possible to my grandfather's name on one of the columns. After saying a short prayer, I was preparing to leave for the ferry, when I noticed a small iron door set into the monument. Wondering what it was, I opened it to reveal several rows of unmarked books. These I assumed contained the names of the 55,000 persons who were displayed on the monument as having no graves. Picking one of these books out purely at random, I opened it then closed it in shock as I realised that I had opened it – out of 55,000 names – on my grandfather's page. After getting over the shock I then had to search through the book again to the correct page and read the report.*

*When I recall this incident now, it gives me great pleasure to think that perhaps he was looking down and thanking his grandson for his visit and prayer.*

**GOD BLESS YOU GRANDAD**

*Terence Wakeling  
(a.k.a. Retired of Eastbourne)*



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07903 253293

# Motorcycling in Switzerland in 1958

It was way back in 1958 when Jean and I went to France and Switzerland on a 1953 BSA Golden Flash – camping of course. Let's face it – nobody had any money in those days. We had already been to Cornwall, so why not Switzerland. The Newhaven-Dieppe ferry loaded our bike by crane. The

crossing was by two ships – one for freight and one for passengers. The cost of the ferry I recall was £2 12s 6d. France was a different place than it is today, the roads were very rough, many towns and villages were badly war damaged. Lorries, aircraft and general scrap were still piled up in many areas and most towns and villages had the dreaded cobbles and lots of big holes, giving the feeling that the BSA would shake itself to bits.

We remember everyone and everywhere we stopped were very friendly. Our route took us to Beauvais, Reims, Langres and Besancon; arriving in Switzerland was like chalk and cheese – the roads were perfect, everything seemed so colourful and well laid out.

We stopped at Montreux alongside the lake at a lovely camping site. We made daily excursion to Geneva or Lausanne and surrounding area. Moving up the Rhone Valley, we stopped at Brig. The next day we crossed the 6,000ft Simplon Pass to Domodossola in Italy. The passes in the 1950s were a mile away from what we have today, the road was just loose ground and stone. Avalanches had taken the road away in a number of places so we crossed on

planks of wood, etc. For the whole trip, we had perfect weather so the scenery was spectacular. We had never seen mountains or snow like this before. This was just a day trip to Italy and we returned to Brig the same day. Next day was to the Rhone Glacier on the Furka Pass and on to Interlaken, Lucerne. We were sorry to leave Switzerland. We headed home across France to





Paris, staying one night. In those days, no inhibitions, through the city, up the Champs-Élysées, around the Arc de Triomphe. Would I do it these days on a motorcycle .... errr .... No!

Heading north, still with lovely weather – how lucky we were – via Compiègne, back to Dieppe. The camping sites then were mainly ex-Army bases so one would stay usually in the grounds of lovely chateaux, etc. In Dieppe, it was just that, in the grounds of the lovely chateau that stands overlooking to the town. Very likely a Germany gun battery during the war.

We did this same trip this year, fifty years on with our caravan and Nissan. What a difference, perfect roads, every village and town is bypassed. Many of the towns are now enormous. It's hard to recognise most of it, unless one goes into the old parts. Switzerland is still as lovely, yes they have built motorways and there are differences, the passes are now like motorways (mecca for motorcyclists!) The mountains and scenery are still there, this modern world can't change that.

In the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s we took a Standard 12 to the south of France and back through Switzerland – that was an epic! – and a Vauxhall Velox on two occasions – once to Rome and once to the South of France. Kids came along, hence the Bedford, some 25/30 trips in all – that can be another story!



Back to the BSA, it never missed a beat. In scorching weather, it performed with no trouble, some 1,800 miles.

We still look back and think it was one of our best holidays, pure adventure in the 1950s. From the photographs, note Jean's dress – no proper gear in those days – not even trousers (but we did have crash helmets, well sort of!)

We remember passing two English cars on the whole trip. Those were the days!

A few points of interest:

*Bike was a 1953 BSA Gold Flash 650cc*

*Tent measured 5ft x 3ft high x 4ft wide*

*Cost of trip = £85*

*Petrol about 3/- a gallon*

*Ferry £2 12s 6d*

*Longest distance travelled in one day = 322 miles from Switzerland to Paris*

**1958**

**2008**

*French roads perfect, new ferry terminal at Dieppe and exit roads*

*Newhaven much the same "Tatty", roads in England no better*

*The ferry very nice – ah! but that's French*

*Cost £1,200 (no surprise there!)*

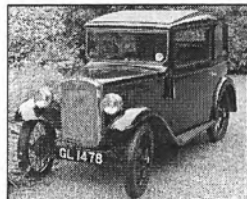
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Viewing:

Tuesday 21st April 3pm-7pm, Wednesday 22nd April 9am-5pm,

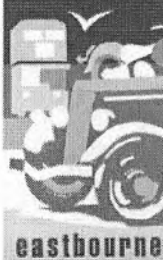
Day of Sale 9am-11am

Catalogues £4 (£4.50 to post)

**On April 23rd at 11am****A note on oil:**

For older vehicles, veteran, vintage and classic, use an oil of the correct viscosity as recommended by the vehicle manufacturer and shown in your vehicle's handbook. Where your vehicle requires a specific viscosity such as 30, 40, 50 and 20w-50, avoid using inappropriate low viscosity engine lubricants designed for modern vehicles such as 0w, 5w, 10w, 15w.

I always use 20-50 in my cars, if that helps! Ron W

**MAGNIFICENT  
MOTORS**

Now in its 6th year Magnificent Motors continues to offer a great weekend for classic, vintage and veteran vehicle exhibitors as well as stunning spectacle for the 20,000+ visitors who attend each year.

Again, in 2009, organisers Eastbourne Borough Council, look forward to welcoming exhibitors of cars, motorcycles, bicycles, military and commercial vehicles as well as buses.

Magnificent Motors is held on the Western Lawns on Eastbourne's seafront. The dates will be 2nd and 3rd May 2009. There will be a Seafront Cavalcade on both days starting at car parks at either Prince William Parade or Fort Fun.

Magnificent Motors will offer a French Market, fairground rides as well as live musical entertainment, craft stalls and trade outlets.

To enter your vehicle contact the Events Team on 01323 415442, by e-mail at [events@eastbourne.gov.uk](mailto:events@eastbourne.gov.uk) or download the form at [www.magnificentmotors.co.uk](http://www.magnificentmotors.co.uk)

**DON'T MISS THE PRE MAGNIFICENT MOTORS FILM SHOW**

The East Sussex Omnibus Society will present their annual Pre Magnificent Motors Film Show at The Underground Theatre, Grove Road Eastbourne on Tuesday 28 April 2009. Refreshments will be available. Event commences 7.30 p.m. Call John Bishop on 01323 843202 for tickets.

## Mid Norfolk Railway *by Alan Hodges*

This delightful Railway nestling in the heart of the Norfolk countryside has only existed in its preserved form for around ten years. It originally closed to passenger traffic in the sixties, lasting until the eighties as a freight only line after which it closed. My wife Vanessa and I had the opportunity to visit the line recently when we were in the locality on family business. We arrived at Dereham for the 10.15 train on a Sunday morning early in April to find that we were literally the only passengers on the train, and had the sole attention of the Guard, a true enthusiast and very eager to impart his knowledge of the line. Unfortunately, although this is a very well equipped and well managed line, they don't as yet have any steam Locomotives, only Diesels and Diesel Multiple units, but on certain weekends of the year they do have a visiting Steam Loco. The line meanders through some beautiful Norfolk countryside and after stopping at four picturesque stations on what was the old Great Eastern Railway, (latterly LNER), we arrive at Wymondham Abbey. Wymondham with its famous Abbey is a beautiful little market town and boasts a Public House named the Green Dragon dating back to the 1300's and is reputedly one of the oldest Pubs in Britain. Two interesting features are the scorch marks on its timber beams caused by the great fire of Wymondham in 1615. It also has an underground tunnel linking with the Abbey which was supposedly used by the Monks to gain access to the Pub when the Abbey was a Monastery in days gone by. The Abbey itself is a beautiful building, and judging by the congregation that we saw leaving the Sunday morning service, it is still very much at the heart of the community. As already stated in days gone by it was a Monastery and was built in the shape of the cross, and although parts of its structure from its Monastic days have long since been demolished, it still remains to be a dominant part of the local skyline. Walking on from the Abbey to the centre of Wymondham finds the lovely marketplace, dominated by a beautiful little building, octagonal in shape and standing on a number of wooden stilt like legs, formerly the Offices of the Market Manager, and now a Tourism Office. After a very pleasant few hours it is time to board our train back to Dereham, and again a very interesting journey. During the ride it is interesting to see the number of houses that still have back gardens with Chickens, Geese and in one case a Goat! something not often seen in our part of the world. Whilst East Anglia might not have the benefit of the beauty of the Sussex Downs, it has succeeded in retaining its rurality, and long may it last!

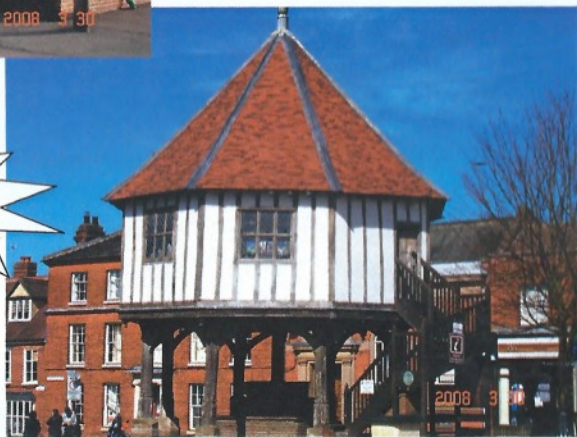
# Mid Norfolk Railway

Green Dragon  
Public House



Dereham Station

Wymondham  
Tourism Office



Class 47