

# The Squeaky Wheel

CSMA Club Classic Vehicle Group Newsletter



Issue No 17 January 2012

**CSMA**  
CLUB

# Introduction from Bernard Ward the Chairman

## **Welcome to our January edition of the Squeaky Wheel**

We wish you a belated Seasons Greetings and a happy and enjoyable New Year. Many of you will be taking stock of what you intend to do in 2012 – some will have both eyes on the Olympics and I suspect some will be looking the other way. There are also the hugely significant Diamond Jubilee celebrations for which the above comments may also hold good.

At the NEC Classic Car Show last November in Birmingham your CVG committee were out in force, with our numbers supplemented by several CVG members who gave time to be on the stand, meeting and greeting visitors and answering questions about the cars on display and about CSMA Club and the Classic Vehicle Group. My thanks to everyone involved.

There is a brief report on the show, with a few photos to help you picture what our stand looked like. Many of you asked why we don't do more in the north and we were able to say that, despite the lack of interest in runs over the past few years and my erstwhile pleas for volunteers to take on the organising of events locally, we were now looking to create local support groups in the north and in the Gloucestershire region.

We have included an invitation from a CVG member in the Leeds area to join in with activities run by a local club and from Geoff Davies who is intending to get something moving in the Gloucestershire area.

In March we are taking a stand at the indoor event at Manchester, a splendid classic car show held at Event City, near the Trafford Centre. We can take a few vehicles on the stand, to display over the two day event, and would like to have anyone contact us who would like to be on the display, or who would like further details.

I am aware of many classic shows being arranged for the Jubilee long weekend, and many of you I know are involved in your own particular local or national owners' clubs which are taking advantage of the extra day to put on special shows. We have therefore avoided getting involved with anything over this period but will be at the East Lancs Railway Club Day at Bury the weekend after. This is really a follow up to the indoor event in the North West, where we hope to put on a display and invite CVG members in the region to come along.

So, we have a good programme for you and this can be found in the following calendar. It is all on the website and we are adding details of events as they are available from the organisers, so this calendar is not the last word by any means. As is the norm, we are including a form at the back of the Squeaky Wheel for those not

able to access the internet, who can use it to request these further details in the post, or register their interest in particular events.

We are again able to have a presence at Special Events which are being put on by the Events Team at Brighton, and they include the old favourites such as Thruxton, aka The Big Weekend, but with new attractions such as Goodwood Revival, and the Waddington Air Display, in Lincolnshire.

Another event is being held at Old Warden, in Bedfordshire, and for us with a similar format to the last time we went there, in 2010. Gathering at a local hostelry and a short run through the Bedfordshire countryside, with free entry to the show, this will be organised by a local CVG member with 'local knowledge'.

The French tour is still on, but no costs yet, and booking arrangements may be a bit different due to new rules for the organisers. We have taken a page full of 'expressions of interest' on the NEC stand, and more since. Rest assured that all will be contacted with further information.

The Cars the Star this time is a glorious Lea Francis, owned by Mike Twomey. A rare beast, a prototype, and only one of its kind, and with a full restoration.

Finally, if you were to cast your mind back to last issue, there was a conundrum posed in the Rosedale Hill Climb article. It has been put to me by Tony Archard that although the Frazer Nash company was, as the author suggests, not founded until the early twenties, Archie Frazer Nash was the **N** in the **GN** cyclecar company which was founded c1910 and it may well have been the GN that he was trying to publicise in 1912. The **G** in **GN** was HR Godfrey, the **G** in the HRG sports car company, founded c1935. So there we have it, possibly?

Here's a repeat of our CVG committee, who will all be busy this coming year providing you with a choice of runs and displays to join in with.

## Committee

<b>Bernard Ward</b>	Chairman & Treasurer	<a href="mailto:bernard.ward@csmclub.org">bernard.ward@csmclub.org</a>
<b>Dave Roshier</b>	Secretary	<a href="mailto:david.roshier@csmclub.org">david.roshier@csmclub.org</a>
<b>Derrick Holden</b>	Committee	<a href="mailto:derrickholden@csmclub.org">derrickholden@csmclub.org</a>
<b>Alan Ashby</b>	Committee	<a href="mailto:alan.ashby@csmclub.org">alan.ashby@csmclub.org</a>
<b>Peter Blake</b>	Committee	<a href="mailto:peter.blake@csmclub.org">peter.blake@csmclub.org</a>
<b>Geoff Wooldridge</b>	Committee	<a href="mailto:geoff.wooldridge@csmclub.org">geoff.wooldridge@csmclub.org</a>

## Technical support

<b>Allan Goddard</b>	Club Captain	<a href="mailto:allan.goddard@csmclub.org">allan.goddard@csmclub.org</a>
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Articles for the next issue of Squeaky Wheel should be sent to Bernard Ward to arrive before 6 March..

# Local Classic Vehicle Groups

## Classic Owners in NW and N Wales

Graham Maxwell is hoping to start a local Classic Group in the North-West/ North Wales area. Ideas of activities could range from pub meets for noggin'n'atters to stands at Classic Shows to organised runs, whatever folks fancy really. Graham lives in mid-Cheshire so is central to anyone in above area.

First activity on the calendar is the NW Indoor Classic Show, to be held at EVENT CITY near the Trafford Centre in Manchester on 24/ 25 March when we will need at least two really smart cars to put on show so if you fancy showing off your pride and joy, here's your chance. We'll also need some enthusiastic members to take a shift manning the stand. If you want to contact Graham please ring him on 01606-782317 (Evenings) or on <mailto:maxwellgraham@btinternet.com>

A follow-up is a display at the East Lancs Railway on 9 July at Bury. We are looking for volunteers to display a small number of vehicles outside Bury Transport Museum. Contact [getinvolved@csmclub.co.uk](mailto:getinvolved@csmclub.co.uk)

## West and North Yorkshire

### An invitation to join in with Wetherby Classic Car Club

CVG member Peter Woodhall has contacted us:

The following suggestion may be of interest to members 'up ere' in Yorkshire where there is less CVG activity. We would have liked to assist the Classic Vehicle Group by forming a local group but the commitment to our own Wetherby Club would not allow us to do justice to both. However, we would be only too pleased to welcome any CSMA Club members living in the area to join us in our activities at Wetherby Club, whilst always bearing in mind that both retain their individuality.

My wife Joan and I run the Wetherby Classic Car Club that has been in existence for 17 years - the monthly meetings are held at the Bridge Hotel Walshford some 2 miles north of Wetherby. At Club nights we have speakers, a concourse night, inter club quiz, party night, there are several runs and as a club and as individuals we attend many Classic shows. At Club nights we average over 40 members present with an equal mix of ladies and gents. The Club has a bi-monthly Newsletter showing future events, speakers, runs and events, also interesting articles.

Copies may be seen on the web site [www.wetherbyclassiccarclub.org.uk](http://www.wetherbyclassiccarclub.org.uk)

If any CSMA Club member would like any further information please contact;

**Peter & Joan Woodhall c/o Wetherby Classic Car Club,  
12 Appleby Way, Wetherby, LS22 7YB, West Yorkshire  
Tel: 01937 520630  
e-mail joan.woodhall@ntlworld.com**

It is good to know that those CVG members in the area will receive a warm welcome from the Woodhalls at Wetherby, and I hope it works out. Those of you on my Dales Run will remember Peter and Joan in their smart Rover 2000.

## **Malvern & Worcester Area, 18 February**

Geoff Davies, a regular participant on our Windrush Run, has offered to help get a local group off the ground by inviting all CVG members in this area to a lunchtime/afternoon get together on 18th February, meeting at: The Bell Inn, Lower Broad Heath, nr. Worcester, WR2 6QG, where lunches and/or afternoon teas will be available.

Talking to CVG members from the SW Midlands/Worcs/Gloucs area at the NEC, we know there are some of you who have already indicated an interest in noggin 'n' natters, runs and visits to local museums etc.

So if you would like to come along and share your ideas, please get in touch with Geoff at: [a5gcd@btinternet.com](mailto:a5gcd@btinternet.com), he can then give the pub an idea of numbers to expect on the day.

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# Classic Vehicle Group Events 2012

**24/25 March, Indoor Classic Car Show Urmston, Manchester** – An invitation for those local to the area to display your car

**Contact: Graham Maxwell; [maxwellgraham@btinternet.com](mailto:maxwellgraham@btinternet.com)**

**22 April, St. George's Day Classic Tour** – An invite from CSMA Salisbury Group & Sarum Marshalling team to enter their annual run for all pre '88 classics. This year's event starts from Salisbury Racecourse.

**Contact [chris.derbyshire2@virgin.net](mailto:chris.derbyshire2@virgin.net)**

**29 April, Surrey Spring Spree** - Following on from two previous successful Sussex runs, we are offering a similar format with the chance to enjoy the delights of the Surrey Hills and surrounding area, with a scenic run and a special finish.

**Contact: [david.rosher@csmclub.org](mailto:david.rosher@csmclub.org)**

**13 May, Wallingford Vehicle Rally & Parade** – A parade through this historic town centre, followed by a huge gathering of classic vehicles on the Kincroft. We will have our own area set out for CVG members with a display area that can take 12 vehicles - free by prior application but be quick, we were full last year.

**Contact:** [bernard.ward@csmclub.org](mailto:bernard.ward@csmclub.org)

**17 – 22 May, French Mini Tour** – Following on from the success of the last year's "Canche Caper" and 2010's "Montreuil Meander", we will once again be offering you the chance to savour the historic and rural delights of northern France.

**Contact:** [allan.goddard@csmclub.org](mailto:allan.goddard@csmclub.org)

**9 June, East Lancashire Railway, Bury** – CVG will be displaying a small number of vehicles in conjunction with this Club Day for the North West region. Free by prior application. **Contact:** [get.involved@csmclub.co.uk](mailto:get.involved@csmclub.co.uk)

**9 June, Kent Roman Tour** – A half-day Saturday taster event taking in some historic Roman sights around the Kent coast from Reculver Towers via Richborough Fort, nr Sandwich, and finishing on the sea front at Walmer.

**Contact:** [alan.ashby@csmclub.org](mailto:alan.ashby@csmclub.org)

**10 June, Invite to The Yeovil Classic Tour** – Once again, Yeovil Car Club have kindly invited CVG members to take part in this popular event.

**Contact;** [Graham Dewar, postmaster@tanglewood3.plus.com](mailto:Graham Dewar, postmaster@tanglewood3.plus.com)

**24 June, Windrush Run** – Another regular event on our calendar offering a quiet run around the country lanes west of Oxford.

**Contact:** [derrickholden@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:derrickholden@yahoo.co.uk)

**30 June – 1 July, Waddington Air Show, Lincolnshire** – CVG will have a presence at this highly regarded airshow. High quality displays both in the air and on the ground, and CVG members' vehicles will add to this. Similar to Fairford but without the same security restrictions. Applications for this will be available in due course. Watch CSMA Club magazine for details.

**27 – 29/30 July, Mid Wales Weekend**, Llanerchindda, near Llandovery – A return visit to this delightful farmhouse retreat with 14 guest rooms, all en-suite. Organised especially for CVG members and guests, the specially planned CVG-style runs will give you the chance to explore mid & south Wales visiting many places of interest on the way. Choose from a two or three night stay with dinner, bed and breakfast.

**Contact:** [peter.blake@csmclub.org](mailto:peter.blake@csmclub.org)

**5 August, Old Warden Air Display** – As we did in 2010 we are organising a morning run, starting from a hostelry near Bedford and arriving on the site in time for lunch and the air display. Good viewing position and hopefully no queuing to get in this time. This half day run will be £12 to enter, and will cover entry for two persons.

**Contact:** [bernard.ward@csmclub.org](mailto:bernard.ward@csmclub.org)

**18/19 August, Thruxton, The Big Weekend** – A CSMA Club event, where CVG members are invited to display their vehicles as part of the weekend extravaganza. See the CSMA Club magazine for a special featured advertisement in due course. Sounds really good, lots going on and better still than last year. CVG committee will be there in force.

**Contact** [csmclub.co.uk/bigweekend](http://csmclub.co.uk/bigweekend)

**7 – 9 September, Retro Run** – We are again pleased to be able to advertise this weekend on behalf of the motoring committee - venue TBA.

**Contact:** [pete.gregory@csmclub.org](mailto:pete.gregory@csmclub.org)

**14 – 16 September, Goodwood Revival** – this is what CSMA Club have been working on for a while now, and the result is we will be able to have a small vehicle display in our dedicated CSMA Club area, so watch this space. We will need some volunteers for the stand, which will be run by the Brighton Events Team, to work with the CVG committee.

**22/23 September, Three Shires Run** – Once again this popular run will be based in Hampshire, starting & finishing near Petersfield. It will also include the option of a Saturday run and an evening's entertainment. A great weekend, or just a Sunday run for you, your family and your classic or modern vehicle.

**Contact:** [allan.goddard@csmclub.org](mailto:allan.goddard@csmclub.org)

**13 October, Kent Russet Run** – Our last run of the year held on the lanes & by-ways of Kent when they are at their most glorious & colourful best. A visit to Europe's largest pedal car museum will give added interest to this event.

**Contact:** [alan.ashby@csmclub.org](mailto:alan.ashby@csmclub.org)

**9 – 11 November, NEC Classic Car Show** – and we will again be at Birmingham to meet and greet you all

*Unfortunately, entry fees for members on our own UK "one-day" runs have had to increase slightly to £28 to help cover the subsidised entry to the finish venues. Prices for other longer & shorter duration events will be announced in due course.*

*You will also see us, and have the opportunity to display your classic, at some of the Club's "Special Events" throughout the year. More details of these will appear in the Club Magazine & on the website as they become available.*

**For further details of any of the events listed here, or more information about the Classic Vehicle Group, visit: [www.csmclub.co.uk/classicvehiclegroup](http://www.csmclub.co.uk/classicvehiclegroup) - or write to: CSMA Club CVG, 5 Barnsite Gardens, Rustington, Littlehampton, BN16 3QG**

## Small ad

**Peter Strawbridge, who lives in the Bath area, has a front axle and wheels from a post war Vauxhall 14J sitting in his back garden.**

If anyone can make use of this engineering oddity and is willing to collect it, then contact [david.rosher@csmclub.org](mailto:david.rosher@csmclub.org), who will be glad to pass on your email details in order to make the necessary arrangements.

*(No payment required, but a small donation to Help for Heroes may be in order if bidding is required)*

# The Classic Motor Show 2011 at The NEC Birmingham

Once again we were fortunate enough to be able to put on a display of some of our members' vehicles at this year's Footman James NEC Classic Motor Show and also get the opportunity to chat to those members who took the time to visit us on the stand.

Being centrally located, it attracts members from all over the UK and so it was useful to get some ideas for events that are away from our usual southern base.

This year we had seven vehicles on display, all of which are in regular use. The oldest being a 1938 Austin Ruby Van, which belongs to one of the friends of the Cotswold Motor Museum and has done many miles since being put back on the road in 2001, including holidays to Scotland & Ireland.



We had three examples from the fifties, A 1950 Austin A90 Atlantic, 1953 Singer 4 ADT Roadster and a 1955 Triumph TR2, all having done many thousands of miles, both at home and abroad.



The CSMA Club Motorsport Group were also well represented with an ex-works replica 1962 Austin Healey 3000 that took part in the very first 1988 Pirelli Classic Marathon and has done many other competitive (and touring) miles since.

Fresh from a track day at Brands Hatch only two days before was the much modified 1967 Austin Healey Sprite, which created a great deal of interest with its 235 bhp 1.9 K series engine lurking under the bonnet.

And finally we had a more modern classic in the shape of the 1983 Mk1 Astra, prepared to "1300 Astra Challenge" spec. and still enjoying success on the recent Poppy Rally in Belgium.

Thanks once again to everyone who visited the stand and especially to everyone who brought their cars and helped out over the weekend, we hope you all enjoyed your visit and look forward to seeing you again.

**Dave Rosher**

# Report on the Kent Russet Run

by Mike and Carol Craker

It was back in August that Carol and I attended the annual Coolings Garden Centre, Knockholt, classic vehicle show where we met members of the Tonbridge & Tunbridge Wells Group CSMA Club, and a small display of vehicles that had been assembled by Alan Ashby who was promoting the CVG's activities, including the Kent Russet Run.

At the time we were not members of the Club but upon reading the KRR event flyer, which had been liberally displayed around the stand, we thought that an 85 miles run, through the Kent countryside, in October, would be an event with a difference that we would thoroughly enjoy participating in with our 1974 Triumph 1500 TC.



On the day of the run we awoke, early, to find a bright and clear late summer's day (well done, Alan, for arranging this!) and after a 'snatched' breakfast we proceeded to the start, at The Junction Inn, Groombridge, accompanied by our daughter, Allison, and Lily, the dog.

Upon arriving at The Junction Inn other event participants were already tucking into full English breakfasts so we occupied our time viewing the other participating vehicles, some 30 in total – covering a wide motoring spectrum from the 1930s up to more recent times, a fair abundance of soft-tops, and a couple of motorbikes. Breakfast over it was time to sign-in, collect our 'goody bag' containing the Road Book, event rally plate, and snack-refreshment vouchers (for use at the end of the run) and after a pre-event briefing and affixing of the rally plate we lined-up ready to be flagged-away at the drop of the Union Flag.

The route chosen along mainly empty B Class roads, and given the superb nature of the





sunny day and un-seasonal warm temperature, presented the Kent countryside at its glorious best; trees were showing early signs of turning golden brown and after just 11 miles we stopped to enjoy the view across Bough Beech Reservoir.

A further 25 miles on and we pulled into the Control Point at the Brands Hatch Morgans car showroom, at Borough Green, where refreshments

were laid on. An hour later we continued on our way avoiding traffic on the more busy A Class roads where we admired yet further views looking down into valleys and from a causeway view-point looking across Bewl Water reservoir – the largest inland body of water in the southeast. Here, we strolled a little to further enjoy the countryside and exercise Lily. 20 minutes later we were away, again, for the final leg of the journey to Dunorlan Park, Royal Tunbridge Wells, where car parking, in the grounds of a private girls' school, had been arranged for our exclusive use – and just as well, as the public car park was full. With the run now over, and having arrived in good time to enjoy light refreshments in the on-site cafeteria and wander around the park's gardens we drove home, as the sun was beginning to settle on the horizon, having thoroughly enjoyed this, our very first Kent Russet Run.

We have to mention, here, how well organised everything was – the Road Book, provided comprehensive route instructions, with added notes pointing out features of interest, and fully-coloured maps which made it all so easy to follow. We have to thank Alan and his helpers for organising and marshalling such an enjoyable event – and for supplying the most idyllic of weather conditions. We all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and look forward to taking part in the next Kent Russet Run in 2012.



# Join the Classic Vehicle Group on the Surrey Spring Spree

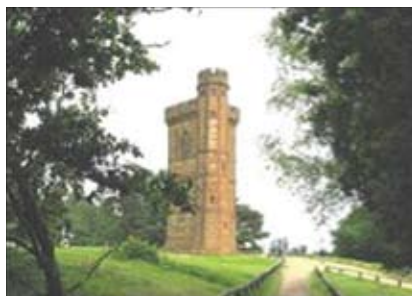
**Sunday 29th April 2012**



For 2012 we are offering an event in late April exploring the beauty of leafy Surrey. For those of you who found the 2011 Sussex Summer Spree a little complex in places, rest assured that this event will be more straightforward.

The event will now start at around 10.00am from The Inn On The Green at Ockley, Surrey, RH5 5TD, which is situated directly on the A29. They have kindly offered to open up early for us and a range of (pre-ordered only) breakfast fare will be available from 8.30am to set you up for the day ahead.

From there, the run will consist of a scenic tour of around 70 miles in and around the Surrey Hills area of the North Downs (Official description being "An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty"). We will be exploring the scenic countryside and villages within the region using country roads and visiting some of the many beauty spots there.



We will return to the Inn On The Green for lunch where advance orders can be made, or if you prefer, there is a scenic area nearby where you can enjoy your picnic in pleasant surroundings.

Suitably refreshed, we will continue our trip through the Surrey countryside to our final destination. This visit will include a scheduled 45 minute guided tour of the venue, (choose between 3pm or 4pm) which we are sure you will find both interesting and enjoyable.

*Breakfast & lunch menus will be distributed before the event and should you wish to stay overnight, rooms are available at £65 for B&B, two sharing and £45 for a single. visit: [www.inn-onthegreen.co.uk](http://www.inn-onthegreen.co.uk). Or, Tel: 01306 711032.*

*Alternatively, the Club's very own Ghyll Manor is not too far away in Rusper.*

Entry fee for the run is £28 per car & two occupants (£31 non-member guests) and includes: Tulip Roadbook, Rally Plate, Tea/Coffee at the start and the cost of the guided tour at the finishing venue. *(Extra passengers welcome but there will be extra charge of £5 per head to cover the finishing venue cost.)*

For those of you who prefer two wheels instead of four, entry fee will be £12 solo m/c (£14 non-member guests) but does not include a Rally Plate.

**Hope you can make it! - Peter Blake & Dave Rosher**

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## **CVG is pleased to support the** Wallingford classic vehicle rally and parade

**Sunday 13th May 2012**

**You are invited to join in the parade and display your vehicle on our stand.  
If accepted for the stand, entry is free**

What is the event all about? Well, this is a regular event for the town's calendar and is open to all classic, custom and interesting vehicles from bicycles to tank transporters and takes place in the Historic South Oxfordshire town of Wallingford.

There is a start point outside town, on the Sports Field at 11 o'clock, The route will again weave its way through the historic town of Wallingford in Oxfordshire, taking in the stunning market place, town hall, and ancient churches. The route then heads out of town for a brief drive around the outskirts, before returning to the town centre and into the Kinecroft where the parade will park up and the entertainment can begin.

The owners of the vehicles are encouraged to show their vehicles in the display ring and to talk to visitors to the event. There are reserved areas for enthusiasts clubs to display their members' vehicles and CVG sets up in an area which can take nine or ten vehicles.



This event is totally non commercial, and one of the organisers is our very own committee member Geoff Wooldridge so it's good that the Classic Vehicle Group can support the event, and we have done so for the last few years. All profits, after operating expenses, go to local charities. More than 200 vehicles are expected with crowds in excess of 2000.

Photographs of the day can be seen on the gallery page of [www.wallingfordcarrally.org.uk](http://www.wallingfordcarrally.org.uk)

Entry for the CSMA display is through Bernard Ward who liaises with the organisers with regards to registration etc, and who pays your entry by way of purchasing a display area.

For more information or should you wish to display and take advantage of free entry to the event, please contact Bernard Ward on 01992 582323 or [bernard.ward@csmclub.org](mailto:bernard.ward@csmclub.org)

**CSMA Club Classic Vehicle Group presents :**

## Le 2012 French Tour

**Thursday 17th – Tuesday 22nd May 2012**



There will be an option of an overnight stay in Dover on Thursday 17th May, then we shall take an early-ish Ferry across to France on Friday 18th May, returning via Calais back to Kent on Tuesday 22nd. In between will be two hotels, (we'll be staying for two nights at each); approximately 350 miles on the gloriously quiet and open lanes of Northern France; and, once again, the almost obligatory visits to one or two fine Continental Cafes and 'unusual' places of interest en-route! I have identified two excellent Hotels for our use during our five day trip and I know you will not be disappointed with either of them! Very attentive staff and simple, traditional luxuries compliment both establishments and during our stay at each hotel I shall be arranging Day-Runs for you. But, as we've successfully done before, we'll all gather together each evening for our Supper and, (almost inevitably I'm afraid), a little light entertainment! Following four glorious days on the road, on the fifth day (Tuesday) we'll be returning to England via Calais, arriving back in Dover late afternoon /early evening.

Like all our normal Runs, we'll be providing each Crew with a simple-to-use comprehensive Road Book covering each day, plus a few pleasant surprises along the way. Throughout the event in this beautiful area there will be no need to hurry, and all will be encouraged to go at their own pace, thus making it ideal for those venturing abroad with their Classic for the very first time.

As soon as the planning is completed, full details will be available. Early calculations indicate an estimated cost circa £585 per car & crew of two but NOT included is the stay at Dover on the first night. Each Team will share one room at each Hotel with the option of either a Double or Twin beds. And please be assured, it will be our usual CSMA great value-for-money event, whatever happens to the Euro! Now, obviously, this will be a very Limited Numbers Tour with just 30 car-places available. So please put the dates in your diaries and book the long weekend off (17th/22nd May 2012).

**I hope we'll see YOU there!**

**Allan Goddard Club Captain on behalf of the CSMA Club Classic Vehicle Group**

**Join the Classic Vehicle Group on the:**

## The Windrush Run

**Sunday 24 June 2012**



**Join us on our annual jaunt around the Cotswolds starting this year at The Fox PH, Little Barrington, Burford, Gloucs. – right next to the river Windrush.**

The run will be about 100 miles and is over a straightforward and interesting route designed to give the navigator and the driver time to see the views and scenery – please do stop and stare – you have lots of time to do the route.

Three stops for coffee, lunch and tea have been planned and the finish will be at the Rose Revived PH, Newbridge, Witney, Oxon., where food will be available for those wishing to eat before the journey home.

Entry fee for the run is £28 per car & two occupants (£31 non-member guests) and includes: Tulip Roadbook, Rally Plate,

Entry forms can be downloaded from: [www.csmclub.co.uk/classicvehiclegroup](http://www.csmclub.co.uk/classicvehiclegroup)  
Or contact: Derrick Holden on 07905 005963, email [derrickholden@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:derrickholden@yahoo.co.uk)

# Revised MOT

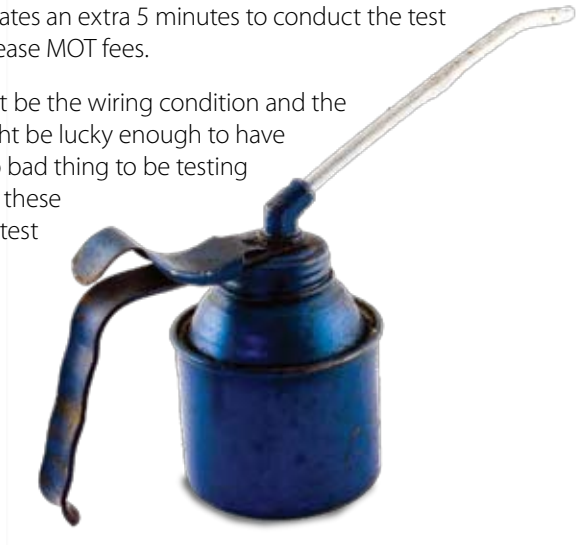
Although more targeted towards modern motors, the revised MOT testing requirements may cause trouble to the classic car owner.

From 1st January 2012 there will be more items to be checked by the testers. In all they are

- Air bags
- Brake fluid warning light
- Catalytic converter
- Condition of all visible wiring and condition of battery
- Electronic seat adjustment motor
- Electronic parking brake
- Electronic stability control
- High intensity discharge lamps
- Power steering
- Seat belt pre-tensioners
- Trailer/caravan electrical socket
- Tyre pressure monitoring system

The MOT trade forum estimates an extra 5 minutes to conduct the test but no plans just yet to increase MOT fees.

Of relevance to classics must be the wiring condition and the battery – although you might be lucky enough to have some of the other items. No bad thing to be testing them but you should check these things over before the next test



# Rex Huntley's Mercedes

**If we can't provide you with much in the way of organised events in the northern areas, at least we can feature articles from members in these areas. Not only do we have the Phoenix restoration project and the invitation to join in with the Woodhalls at a clubnight gathering, we have pleasure in including a third article from the Leeds area, this from Rex Huntley who has provided some most interesting memoirs of his much loved Mercedes.**

Rex writes:-

I bought my Mercedes 280E auto in Hanover during 1981 when I was stationed over there for four years as an architect attached to British Forces Germany.

My wife and I flew to Stuttgart and were transported to the Sindelfingen factory where the car was manufactured. We then had a tour of the assembly lines and were shown a short film and introduced to the Mercedes shop. Shortly after that we saw our new car driven into the waiting area where a mechanic explained to me the controls and the various components of the engine bay.



With trepidation we drove into Stuttgart during rush hour but managed to transport it back to Hanover without a scratch.

Two years later we returned to England and lived in High Wycombe for two further years where I had the car maintained by a Mercedes dealer. However, I was very dissatisfied by one particular service and vowed to do my own servicing following this. I found that my tool kit together with the car's own kit was

adequate for the purpose except for a special tappet spanner which I acquired from a Mercedes dealer. So for 26 years the car never went into a garage except for MOT's. (Mainly because nothing ever went wrong with the car). Admittedly after 30 years the mileage was only 78,000 but nevertheless what an incredible tribute to Mercedes!. (*More than can be said for the post '94 cars – Ed*)

Last year I took it to the Classic Motor Show in Harewood near Leeds and there won best in class 4-door saloon. At the same time the car was paraded round the spectator ring and I was asked a few questions over the tannoy system.

However, now that I have reached the age of 81, I found that this year scrambling under the car changing oil filters etc. rather beyond me and recently I reluctantly and with considerable emotion parted with the car.

As I have said it was an exceptional car and we will never forget the wonderful times we had speeding along the autobahns and visiting all the adjacent countries.

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## The Car's the Star and it's the only one in the world!

### **Mike Twomey's 1950 Lea-Francis 2½ litre Sports Cabriolet 4/5 seater - aluminium prototype.**

Mike kindly provided the information for this article, prior to offering the car up for sale, and those of you who were able to see it on our stand at the Bromley Pageant of Motoring last year, or watch the TV clip, see below, can vouch for its elegance.

Mike was fortunate in acquiring this unique car earlier in the year. On the back of a lot of research (W. Lyons used this as his inspiration for the XK120 - also manufactured in Coventry) he managed to complete the outstanding works incredibly quickly, prior to exhibiting it on our club stand, where it received 'the best CVG vehicle in the show' award from our very own AG!

This rare car has had a 12 years body off restoration, back to bare aluminium then etch primed right through to original cellulose finish, along with a full interior leather re-trim, new concealed running boards, loom and electrics, original pattern carpets, hood and side screens, and wheels and tyres. Also, during the past 12 years the full clutch assembly has been replaced, since when it has

recorded just 2,000 miles and, amazingly, only 48,000 miles from new.

It features a patented Lea-Francis original 2.5 Sports engine with twin SU H3 carburettors and the most efficient water circulation from its pump as it is rear mounted on the block resulting in no thermal distortion or blown gaskets where heat sink is at its most elevated!



Also, the very elegant aluminium body, by Westland, has a concealed cabriolet panel which gives the most streamlined appearance when motoring with the soft- top retracted.

Mike says that having finished the project and exhibiting it he wants to move onto another one; he has enjoyed having so much fun researching the vehicle's history, with its undisputed provenance aided with assistance provided by factory photographs and full size engineering drawings. He has also had contact with previous owners, including receiving letters from them. Along the way he found the Lea-Francis Owners Club to be a source of inspiration and contacts made have given rise to a most enjoyable time in completing the 'Leaf' - as it is affectionately known.

So, now the project has been completed Mike realises that, most of all, it is the history, research and restoration that has given him the buzz to embark on another!

Only 77 lesser cars of the marque were ever made, as it was prohibitively expensive to produce in its very elegant guise and of these 55 were exported to the USA. The Leaf has even been on television, with Mike being interviewed, and is the 2nd feature in the Polhill Car Show, so you should see this clip:- [www.croydontv.co.uk/motoring.html](http://www.croydontv.co.uk/motoring.html)

Mike is hoping that it will be purchased by an aficionado of the Lea-Francis brand who will treat it with the respect it deserves.

Mike, good luck with the next project - we look forward to hearing about it and being invited to view something that is bound to be 'special' at one of our future events.



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## The Phoenix Project

**by Cliff Lloyd**

### **Part 3**

This is the third part of an article by Cliff Lloyd, one of our members in Yorkshire – and describes how, despite difficulties, he hopes his project will reach a successful conclusion.

He has been cleared to re start some physical activity, (although still under Physio supervision) and is now back in the Garage - and has made further progress to continue the interest on the Website.

Due to these unexpected delays, the Project Estimated End Date-Obviously Far

Fetched (PEED-OFF) has now been extended to the first week in June 2012. It is hoped that this new date will coincide with a local Carnival and Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee activities (quite apt really considering some of these cars were built, and renovated, over this same time period 1952-2012)

Another dearest wish is to join in a Rally day which will be arranged to drive down to London to support Great Britain in a special day during the 2012 Olympics.

Cliff writes:-

Phase 9. Once all of the items were removed from the Monocoque body shell, leaving just a bare Cab, it was then that the home made Body-Jig Rotisserie, system was assembled (in its Mark 4 version). This suspending system was designed by me, and had to comply with a set of specific criteria that I drew up to accommodate my personal requirements.

This Jig is now in its final Mark 5 version, and as such, allows the Monocoque to be suspended, locked into place and gives full rotational access to all body parts, in a safe, strong, mobile, cheap and adaptable manner.

During this phase I had a project bonus event, in the shape of a visit from a "Minor" expert. This gentleman was a longstanding and time served expert of some 40 years plus on all things Minor. He was a member and regular contributor to the Morris Minor Owners Forum and lives near Manchester, which is only a spit and a lick from my neck o' the woods. His name is Alan or to give him his "Avatar" woodywoodchipper. He came over to help me with the final obstacle stopping me getting "Phoenix" airborne on the Spit-the front wings.

Alan was quite complimentary with his initial assessment, in as much as he was impressed that the car had not been "butchered" during its 50 years of survival, as so many of the little cars have been. He pointed out to me the original features which gave him the indication of this originality and went on further, to point out additional design features, which would benefit from serious attention during the renovation.

At the time of writing, the monocoque is being braced by inserting longitudinal and cross bars welded inside the cab main body areas so that, when cutting out of all the rotted rusted areas, there is no distortion.

I have noted that during this main bodywork phase, great care should be exercised to ensure any areas being cut out and replaced do not adversely affect the overall strength or rigidity of the car.

**... to be continued in Issue 18**

# CVG – 2012 Event Interest Registration Form\*

If you do not have email or the internet and wish to be posted details of any of the events below when they become available, please tick where appropriate and return the completed form to:

**Dave Roshier, 5 Barnsite Gardens, Rustington, Littlehampton, BN16 3QG**

Date	Event	Tick
Sat 24/Sun 25 March	North West Indoor Classic (CVG)	
Fri 6-Mon 9 April	Easter Thunderball at Santa Pod (SE)	
Sunday 22 April	St. George's Day Classic Tour ( Invite)	
Sunday 29 April	Surrey Spring Spree (CVG)	
Sunday 13 May	Wallingford Parade & Display (CVG)	
Sunday 13 May	Witton Park Country Fair ( Invite)	
Thurs 17 - Tues 22 May	French Mini Tour (CVG)	
Saturday 9 June	Kent Coast Roman Tour (CVG)	
Sunday 10 June	Yeovil Classic Tour ( Invite)	
Sunday 24 June	Windrush Run (CVG)	
Sat30/Sun1 June/July	Waddington Air Display (SE)	
Fri 27-Sun/Mon 29/30 July	Mid Wales Weekend (CVG)	
Sun 5 August	Old Warden Run & Display (CVG+SE)	
Sat 18/Sun 19 August	Big Weekend Display at Thruxton (SE)	
Fri 7 - Sun 9 September	Retro Run Weekend (MC)	
Fri 14 – Sun 16 September	Goodwood Revival (SE)	
Sat 22 / Sun 23 September	Three Shires Run (CVG)	
Saturday 13th October	Kent Russet Run (CVG)	

Name.....

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Tel. No..... Membership No.....

\* By supplying your details, we the Classic Vehicle Group will keep you updated directly with the latest news and information about your chosen event.

# It's your Club... enjoy it!

Our Classic Vehicle Group is run by enthusiasts for enthusiasts and caters for lovers of any vehicle, regardless of age.

For more information:

Visit: **[csmaclub.co.uk/classicvehiclegroup](http://csmaclub.co.uk/classicvehiclegroup)**

Email: **[classicvehiclegroup@csmaclub.co.uk](mailto:classicvehiclegroup@csmaclub.co.uk)**

Call: **0845 365 3905\***

\*Lines open 9am to 6pm, Monday to Friday and 9am to 1pm on Saturday.



7b/6N/Jan12/Zk