

Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts Club, Middlesex Section



NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2020

2020 Committee

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the belated and rather short Autumn Newsletter. I wrote last time that I believed we are now living in interesting times and as the section entered its second half-century I find myself not knowing if I should look backwards, forwards or sideways! The position of Section Clairvoyant remains vacant, I expect all suitable candidates have been snapped up by The Dept. of Health or by The Treasury.

All our events were cancelled we do not know when we shall again be able to enjoy our cars properly in a social context. The Committee decided that the only sensible thing to do would be to reschedule most of our planned 2020 calendar in 2021. I have included an outline of these below along with news of what some of us have been up to.

Our first event should have been the AGM on 10th January and I have received a good response from Section members who have said they would wish to attend. However, in the light of the continued Covid uncertainties, I must advise that the committee has decided that we must postpone this. I have provisionally booked The Grovefield Hotel for 25th April, subject to prevailing conditions.

The committee will be putting together a magazine to be circulated early in the New Year to all paid up club members in our Section area. We hope this will provide us all with some interesting reading matter for the long evenings. If you have any articles for inclusion I should be very happy to receive them. The more the merrier.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



Noggin and Natters

Once the pubs are open again, we can resume our twice-monthly noggin and natters. On the evening of second Tuesday each month we meet at The Ace Café, just off the North Circular Rd NW10 7UD. On the last Thursday of the month we meet at The Winning Post in Whitton, TW2 6LS. Please do come along and mingle. New members will be especially welcome.

RAF Museum Hendon

This is an old favourite of ours where there is a great deal to see, David hopes to rearrange a visit for us in March or April

Road Run

Richard Skinner and I have a great run planned, Full details will follow in the New Year. We hope to start at The Kempton Steam Museum where we can witness their mighty machines steaming up before setting off for a 40 mile drive through the Surrey Hills.

On the Buses

Earlier this year, several section members had the opportunity to drive a London Routemaster bus. By popular demand, Will Bate is hoping to re-run this event early in 2021. The 2020 event was the last event run by the section prior to lock-down. Please let Will know if you are interested.

Hatfield House

Tony O'Brart has a group visit to one of England's finest country houses on the stocks for the summer. Details will be made available as soon as possible in the New Year

Derbyshire Weekend



Jackie has written up the Recce to the Peacock in the summer

On the weekend of 24th-26th July this year, the Sandell family went on a recce to the Peacock Hotel in Derbyshire. When staying at the Peacock, we discovered it also has a micro-brewery which we could have a tour of on the Friday when we arrive (at a small fee). On Saturday, we spent touring round the quaint Derbyshire villages of Matlock and Bakewell, followed by the immense drive out to the Cat & Fiddle which is in the process of being restored so was a shop selling local wines. Unfortunately, when we visited, Chatsworth House was closed but hopefully if we ever get to the end of Covid, we will be able to visit next year! The service and the food at the Peacock was excellent all weekend as were the beautiful bedrooms. The restaurant is a popular spot with the locals and walkers/hikers having amazing views across the Derbyshire hills. On Sunday, we visited the tram museum at Crich. It was slightly limited as to what



we could do there due to Covid (cafes closed, etc.) but we did manage a tram ride which was fun. We also enjoyed the visitor centre that we hadn't managed to see on our previous visit! All four of us had a great weekend and we are looking forward to seeing you there in 2021!

We have booked out the whole hotel, so fingers crossed we actually get to go!!

The 2021 visit will be on 23rd to 25th July, contact Nigel Sandell if you would like to join us.

David Siegal keeps our section database and will send round a flyer for each of the above once we know they can go ahead. Will Bate posts all details on www.rrec-middlesex.co.uk

REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS

South of England Rally, Stanstead House Hampshire, 29 August

A handful of us joined 150 club members at the South of England Rally, the only major club event of the year where I had the privilege of presenting Jane Pedler with her 40- year badge. The actual form of the presentation did lack some element of decorum as I was obliged by Covid restrictions to throw it at her! The moment was encapsulated on our section website www.rrec-middlesex.co.uk



Will Bate came along in what I first thought was a fire engine of some kind, but was in fact a bright red modern Bentley Mulsanne. The Pedler's 20hp is on the left. More photos are on our website.

Hampton Court Concours 4th to 6th September



Nigel has kindly written up his visit to this prestige event as follows

In September I went to the Hampton Court Concours where our good friend, Peter Blond, was in the royal entourage. Prince Michael of Kent was in a Derby Bentley supplied by P & A Wood with Peter behind in his Gurney Nutting 20/25 fhc. The weather was very kind to us too. To my mind, although I am a fan, I felt Peter was the star of the show! He was driving the HWM car that he raced in 1956 at Le Mans. They interviewed him and Gregor Fisker. It was quite remarkable that Peter had driven this car for 64 years but did make us all laugh when he left the winners' rostrum! He dropped the clutch, spun the wheels and ripped the red carpet! There were some amazing cars there and I hope the RREC can have a presence at this event in future years.

I hope to include a fuller report in our New Year Magazine.

LOCKDOWN

The recent phases of lock-down have provided an excellent opportunity to work on our cars. You will have seen the articles by Will and myself in the July *Spirit & Speed*. Since then I have bought another car, its a 1933 Austin 10, a delightful little thing about half the size of a pre-war Royce but with all the complicated bits taken out. I have had the engine and gearbox out and back in again and now await the return of the front dampers before taking her on some local drives. Meanwhile my Riley 9 now has flashing indicators and a rebuilt voltage regulator. I have also got out to a couple of VSCC pub meets where I was delighted to see the superb ex-David Else 20hp, now resident in Cambridgeshire with its appreciative new owner.



Brian Packman has been helping a new section member David McBride with his 1926 20hp Rippon saloon (GCK 7). This was purchased from The Real Car Co. last year but had a number of problems. David contacted me and so Brian and I spent many afternoons working on adjustments to the engine. The photo below shows Brian at work, with his superb Salmons Tickford 20hp in the foreground.



When we seemed to be getting nowhere, I contacted Ian at the RCC and they agreed to take her back and finish the preparation work we wanted done. In August David and I then had a memorable inter- lockdown dash up to Snowdonia to test drive the car before it came back to Hertfordshire.

The photo below shows the view from the windscreen at the Snowdonia slate museum as we road tested the car in the pouring rain. In the end, Will at The Real Car Co did a great job of realising the potential of this grand old car. She has since been polished to perfection by her enthusiastic owner. Look out for GCK 7 at our next car event.



One of the worst aspects of the current situation has been the near impossibility in dealing with official bureaucracy. Tony O'Brart's exasperation shows in his report on getting his car classed as 'Historic'

OBR 200 First registered 18/6/1979 ,so 40 years old on that date .I first applied April 2019 for Historic class , plenty of time before June ,but no , DVLA replied on July 12th 2019, request denied , not 40 years old !!!! I tried again in April 2020 through the Post Office as requested but they refused to handle it after queuing up for 30 minutes. RREC members do not give up, so I posted the full application again, telephoned the DVLA many many times but alas nobody ever answered. 5400 people are actually employed at the head office in Swansea so I resorted to the computer chat line and eventually in August our new log book arrived.

The moral of the story is "Never give up"

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO?

See you next year, but remember:



(old Isleworth proverb)

Richard Edgell, Secretary