

# Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts Club, Middlesex Section



## NEWSLETTER

**Spring 2020**

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## EDITORIAL

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter. I believe we are now living in interesting times and as we have entered our second half-century I find myself not knowing if I should look backwards, forwards or sideways!

Most early season events have been cancelled or postponed, and we do not know when we shall again be able to enjoy our cars properly in a social context. However I thought it would be of some interest to set out what we hope to be able to do between now and the Autumn.

## 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

### **Drive-it Day**

The Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs Drive-It day is set for **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April**, although no Section event is planned, this would be a good opportunity to get out and show what proper driving is all about.

### **Road Run**

My grateful thanks to Richard Skinner who has helped me plan our 2020 road Run through the Surrey Hills. We shall start at 10 on the morning of **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May** by gathering at The Kempton Steam Museum where we can witness their mighty machines steaming up before setting off for a 40 mile drive taking in a visit to the Firebird Brewery in West Sussex before retiring to an excellent pub south of Dorking for a late lunch.

### **Hatfield House**

Tony O'Brart has arranged for a group visit to one of England's finest country houses on **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July**. We meet at Essenden Country Club in the morning before making a short drive to the grounds. We expect to be parking in the courtyard in front of the great house.

### **Visit to Frank Dale & Stepsons**

I have accepted a kind invitation for us to visit the new premises of this famous dealer at their new premises near Camberley on the morning of **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July**. Let me know if you wish to join us.

### **Derbyshire Weekend**

Our Section weekend in The Peak District is scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> July. As I write, all rooms are taken, but contact Nigel Sandell if you would like to join the waiting list.

### **Visit to The Henry Moore Foundation**

The home of the famous sculptor is situated in Perry Green, a lovely village between Much Hadham and Bishop's Stortford. We have planned a visit for the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> October. I will let you know if it can go ahead once the present difficulties are resolved.

*PLEASE PUT THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARY, David Siegal will send round a flyer for each of them once we know they can go ahead.*

### REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS

#### **50<sup>th</sup> AGM of The Middlesex Section 12<sup>th</sup> January**

We decided to move our AGM from November to January in order to avoid some of the pre-Christmas congestion. With our fiftieth AGM the section had passed a significant milestone.

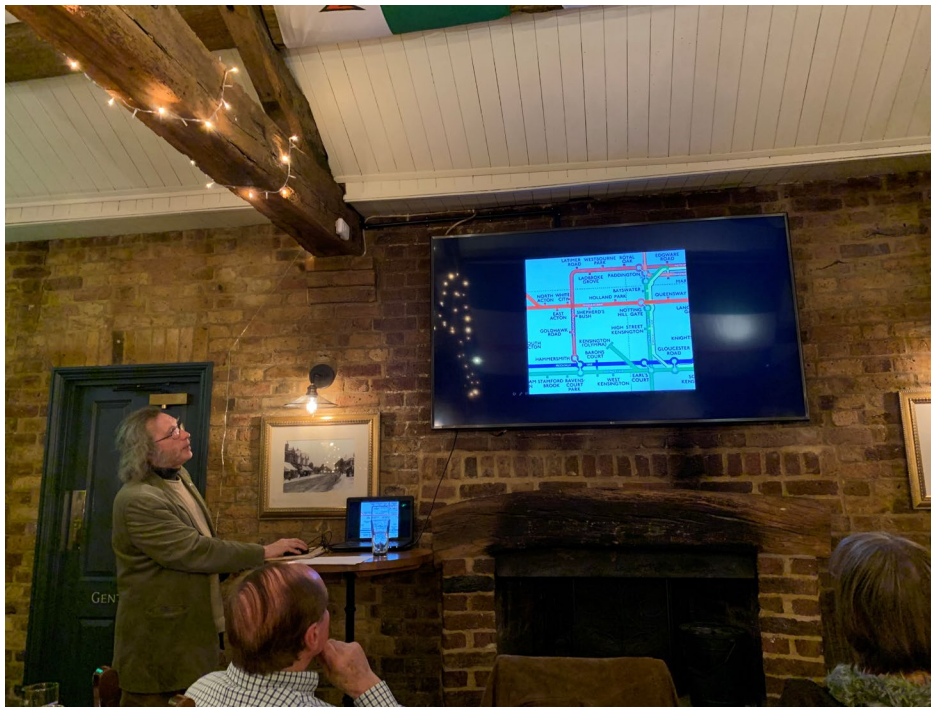
As Nigel reminded us we had enjoyed a memorable year full of notable anniversaries. Apologies been received from Malcolm and Marilyn O'Connor, also Mike & Gillian Underwood. Mike was a past Chairman who was due to be presented with his 40 year badge at the meeting, we hope to see Mike and Gillian at some of our 2020 events.

The highlight of the year had been the jubilee dinner at The Royal Automobile Club on 1<sup>st</sup> October, attended by 44 members and friends. Other notable events during the year were the entry of David Siegal's car at the moving display of Bentleys at The London Classic Car Show in February, the display of over 300 Bentleys at the Annual Rally and the Section weekend in Studland Bay in September. During 2019 Nigel celebrated 40 years of working on R-R and Bentley cars and 20 years running his own business. These landmarks were marked by a memorable day at his workshops in Isleworth, shortly before the presentation of the SHRMF apprentice awards to Jonathan O'Neill and Matthew Gleeson at the NEC.

#### **February Social 20<sup>th</sup> February**

Nineteen Section members met at The Wheatsheaf which is a lively pub in Ealing where the beer was excellent. We were able to enjoy a talk by retired railway archivist Mark Pardoe on the architecture and development of London underground stations over the last 180 years. Most of us are frequent users of the network, but do not often look around to see some of the interesting buildings which were constructed in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries to house them.





**Having parked his Silver Shadow II .Tony wonders if the tube might have been a better plan for getting to Ealing**

One of these is Barons Court built by the District Railway in 1874 and which unlike Earl's Court has no apostrophe. Richard Skinner related how the famous racing driver Prince Bira was found dead at this station just before Christmas in 1985.

### **On The Buses 15<sup>th</sup> March**

We are most grateful to Will for organising this trip to North Weald airfield where we were able to get to know how to drive a bus or two. The virus was starting to cast its evil spell on our lives as Will had been self-isolating for two weeks and could not join us, several members did not feel able to join our lunch group at The Green Man near Great Easton and P & A Wood were not able to accept group visits. However, Sandy Nicol, Paul Brittlebank, David and Kevin Langston, Shobha and I all had a go on various buses. Naturally the 1967 Routemaster was the star of the show, but driving the modern Doubledecker and a bendy bus had its moments. All drivers came away with a certificate and no-one fell under a bus



**A first Section meeting for Sandy Nichol's special edition Arnage (second from left).**

See you soon  
RICHARD EDGELL