



ROLLS-ROYCE
ENTHUSIASTS' CLUB
NORTH EASTERN SECTION



Newsletter
January/February
2008

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The Teesside *Noggin and Natter evenings* continue on the second Wednesday of each month at The Hotel Baltimore, 250 Marton Road, Middlesbrough.

This is a social evening and not just technical talk about cars, though it is always possible that the subject of Rolls-Royce and Bentley may come up!

2008 Preliminary ideas, dates to be confirmed where not specified.

- 24 February** Lunch at The Honest Lawyer - Martin and Jackie
3 March Committee meeting
4-6 April Club Conference
May/September North York Moors Railway day visit at Goathland -
Grahame
June Ushamor Roman Catholic training college near Durham -
Ray and Margaret
22 June Annual Rally
6 July Classic cars in Corbridge with the MG Owners Club at
Tynedale Park - Martin
July Newby Hall Rally
10 August North of England Rally
17 August BBQ - Dennis Wheatley
September/May TBA - Peter

ADVERTISING RATES

Yearly:full page	£75.00
half page	£50.00

Members' private advertisements - maximum space $\frac{1}{4}$ page

Under £200	Free
Over £200	£5.00

Wanted advertisements Free

Front cover:

Florence Hornsby presenting the 'Hornsby Trophy' to Roger and Janice Hall.
See AGM minutes.

Welfare

Members are asked to let the Chairman or Secretary know if they are aware of other members of the Section who are unwell or in hospital.

Chairman's Chat

I have to start on a sad note to announce that Section Member Barry Pickering died last month just three months after announcing he was suffering from cancer. An Obituary to Barry follows elsewhere in the Newsletter.



By the time you are all reading this, the season of good cheer and plenty to drink will have become a hazy memory underneath all the wine and bread I have noticed being bought. What do folks do with all the bread they buy for Christmas? Do they use it for bread puddings or poultices to sooth the tired body after the drinking sprees and I sit here at the computer, just 6 days before Christmas, wondering what all the fuss is about for what is one day out of 365? Going to the Supermarket where folks are filling their trolleys with enough food to see them through until next Christmas let alone this one – I ask myself, why do we put ourselves through all this stress. However, as I listened to the Christmas message given to my Rotary Club the other evening, it brought home to me just how lucky we are to live in this country. Yes, we may moan and groan about the Government, have the stress and worry of Christmas shopping and presents but we do have freedom within the law to live our own lives as we wish, to drive our cars, to choose where to visit on our events and we don't have armoured tanks and soldiers passing our front gates.

Our AGM seemed to be successful yet again this year and the Baltimore I think, did us proud, making up for the little disasters we had last year. The raffle again resembled an Off-Licence shop – but – the proof of the pudding was in the number of tickets bought and the money made, £138, which goes into Section Funds and which ultimately helps you people out there by subsidising various little bits and bobs during the year.

The visit to Fountains Abbey was a delight again. The mulled wine as we went into the Cellarium was very welcome on what was a cold night and the carols sung by the choir presented a very emotional atmosphere. Followed by a lovely meal together with more entertainment in the Restaurant, it was altogether a successful evening.

The Section sends greetings to Jackie Vinson who celebrated her birthday on 14 December. It's not often we get to know about birthdays and when they are a BIG ONE it's especially nice to send greetings. I'm not giving her age away but suffice it to say she was born in 1947. We also send good wishes for a happy retirement Jackie.

The hybrid is old news. Fuel cells? Bah. How about a zero-emissions vehicle that runs on compressed air? MDI of France has announced that its Air Car, invented by chief executive and founder Guy Nègre, will debut in India and France later this year (or perhaps it means next year.) Over time, various models will be introduced, offering two-, four- and six-cylinder engines at prices ranging from £2,400 to £6,300. The OneCAT, the first out of the gate, fits up to five passengers and can go as far as 500 miles on the motorway with one fill-up and as fast as 68mph. Just plug in the car at home and the built-in compressor will refill the tank

in four hours. For more information, visit theaircar.com (Thanks go to the Reader's Digest for this information.) Now if this little invention could be fitted into a Rolls-Royce car, we'd all be laughing our way round the events.

Nearly finally - did you know Dr Thomas Creighton received Britain's first parking ticket in 1960. He was treating a patient at the time and was eventually let off with his £2 fine after a public outcry.

The year of 2008 will have reached us by the time you read this. I wish you all as I wish for my family, a happy and healthy 2008. Drive safely and watch for those cameras or flashing speed signs!

Cynthia

Secretary's notes

First of all a very happy new year to one and all and thank you to all those members from other sections who have kindly contributed towards the cost of this newsletter.

The minutes of the AGM are reproduced later in this newsletter for those who were not present. Just one point regarding sending the newsletter by e-mail; I use software called 'Publisher' which does just what it sounds like! What I see on the screen is how the newsletter looks when printed as a booklet. It is not, however, what appears on the paper when printed on my printer and the software sorts out which page should be printed where. Anyone who can receive a Publisher document would be very welcome to receive this by e-mail but from experience not many people have it installed. I can convert the document into a pdf but if this is done to web quality the photographs are very poor or if to print quality it produces a very large file which takes a long time to download unless the recipient has broadband. To convert the file to a 'Word' document is very time consuming and would mean that I would have to produce two newsletters in the two different formats. I already produce the newsletter in a format acceptable for the Club website. This could be sent by e-mail to members as an html document if that would be acceptable though it would not be so to the advertisers as the advertisements would be omitted.

Comments please, by e-mail to martin@cleveland-lodge.co.uk

As you will see on the coming events page a lunch has been arranged on 24 February at The Honest Lawyer, just south of Durham on the A167. A booking form is enclosed. Please return it to me as soon as possible as numbers are limited to 40 and it will be strictly on a first come basis. Also please enclose a stamped addressed envelope so that I can send a menu as this has not been supplied yet. The deadline is getting very close as this newsletter was unavoidably delayed. Please return the form as soon as possible, if not sooner. Dates for other events are still being arranged.

Martin

New members

A warm welcome to Mr Holmes from Bishop Auckland and Mr Oliver from Hexham. As usual new members are especially welcome at the lunch which is being arranged during February, where there is an opportunity to meet the 'old hands' in an informal setting. 'Cars of the Marque' can be left tucked up in their garages owing to the time of year and the likelihood of the roads being liberally covered with salt.

Barry Pickering - Obituary

Just three months after announcing he was terminally ill, Barry died of cancer at his home on 17 November. Like him or not, Barry was a striking character! Well known for his outrageous comments and flamboyant nature, underneath all this was a helpful and generous man.

I first got to know Barry when I attended an AGM of the Section in 1991. Becoming Section Secretary the following year, started a friendship with him that continued until he died. Tony and I have spent many happy hours at their home together with Tony, Barry's long term partner and with whom he went through a civil partnership ceremony in August.

Over the years, the Section has enjoyed many BBQs at Riverside Leisure caravan park. A man with an overwhelming knowledge of mechanics and engines, Barry opened his garage to members who sought advice and help with their cars, particularly those with cars of the 1930 era.

Barry did the obligatory National Service serving in the RAF. After this he spent some years in Ireland working for a wallpaper company. After his Father died he took over the running of the Riverside Leisure caravan park on Tyne Green and together with Tony they managed this for the past 25 years.

Barry became Mayor of Hexham in 2005 and during his two year term he was the driving force behind Hexham's success in the Britain in Bloom competition in 2005, when it won the large town category, an accompanying Silver Gilt award and the title of best tourism town. Hexham was also named England's favourite market town by Country Life magazine during his tenure.

The funeral took place at Hexham Abbey and was one of the biggest the town has seen for many years.

I will miss the "hello darling" at the end of the phone, the double entendre jokes and the loyalty of friendship. Our thoughts and prayers go to Barry's family and in particular to Tony who I know will miss him dreadfully.

Rest in Peace Barry.

Cynthia