

The TRUnnion

TR Register Lea Valley Group

2013 Issue 3 (May/Jun)

LEA VALLEY GROUP COMMITTEE 2013

Group Leader:

JON MARSHALL ☎ 01462-673956
Email: jon_marshall@dsl.pipex.com

Deputy Group Leader:

JULIAN HENSMAN ☎ 07818-060101
Email: jhensman@seorb.com

Treasurer:

GRAHAM WADE ☎ 01582-609823
Email: grahamwade47@gmail.com

Events Co-ordinator:

PAUL RICHARDSON ☎ 01908-610098
Email: pr124@hotmail.co.uk

Editor/Membership:

BRIAN CHIDWICK ☎ 01462-730676
Email: bjmole1-trlvg@yahoo.co.uk

MEETINGS VENUE

Unless otherwise specified, all Group Lunchtime Meetings are on the first Sunday of the month at The Cock Inn, 23 High Street, Broom, Biggleswade SG18 9NA (Tel: 01767 314 411), commencing 12:00.

(Plenty of parking space behind pub).

N.B. This is a '*lunchtime meeting*', not specifically a '*lunch meeting*' – food is optional and you don't need to book.

WEB SITES

TR Register: www.tr-register.co.uk
TR Forum: www.tr-register.co.uk/forums
Lea Valley Group:
www.groups.tr-register.co.uk/lea-valley

REMEMBER: All recent TRUnnions are available on the website, but if you are not already receiving them directly, it's probably because I don't have your current email address. To keep in touch via TRUnnion (or to contribute letters, articles or photos), email bjmole1-trlvg@yahoo.co.uk.

2013 EVENTS CALENDAR (subject to change)

Events with an 'official' Lea Valley Group presence are shown in **bold type**. Please let me know of any other events that may be of interest to members and I will include them, plus others I hear about, as well as 'official' LVG events.

This calendar currently contains suggested events which may interest members. Some of these will subsequently be adopted as 'official' LVG events **BUT** it's up to you to let us know which you would support. Please phone the Events Co-ordinator for further details.

May 19-21: STAR90 Weekend

May 19: Chiltern Hills

May 25-26: Spa Classic

May 25-26: Enfield

May 27: Ragley Hall

June 1-2: Jabbeke

June 2: Group Lunchtime Meeting

June 2: London-Brighton

June 2: Stony Stratford

June 8: LGCCVCC Picnic, Letchworth with LVG TR display including TS2

June 8: Ace Cafe Triumph Meet

June 9: Stockwood Park

June 11(6pm): Lordship Arms, Benington

June 16: Fathers' Classic Day Out, Woburn Abbey

June 16: Marsworth

June 16: Glos Railway, Toddington

June 23: Old Buckenham Airshow, Attleborough, Suffolk

June 23: Haynes 100

June 29: Bloxham Steam Rally, Banbury

June 30: Bletchley Park

July 6: Newport Pagnall Carnival

July 7: LVG Toe In The Water Tour followed by Group Lunchtime Meeting

July 7: Festival of Transport, Barleylands Farm, Billericay, Essex

July 9 (6pm): Lordship's Farm, Benington

July 14: SBMC Kimbolton Fayre/Classic Car Show

2 The TRunnion

July 21: Chiltern Open Air Museum, Chalfont St. Giles
July 21: Mallory Park
July 27-28: Silverstone Classic (Group Stand/Run?)
July 28: Duxford - Spitfires, Merlins & Motors
Aug. 4: Group Lunchtime Meeting
Aug. 4: Woburn
Aug. 4: Glos Railway, Toddington
Aug. 9-11: TRR IWE, Malvern
Aug. 18: Shelsley Walsh
Aug. 25: Brill Show/Great Train Robbery
Aug. 25: Little Gransden
Aug. 26: Knebworth Classic Motor Show (TRR Eastern Group Gathering)
Aug. 26: Blenheim
Sept. 1: Group Lunchtime Meeting
Sept. 1: Kensworth
Sept. 1: Elgood's Brewery, Wisbech
Sept. 5-12: Euro Meet, Norway
Sept. 7-8: Beaulieu
Sept. 7-8: Haddenham (Cambs) Steam Rally & Classics
Sept. 8: LVG 40th Anniversary Tulip Tour
Sept. 14-15: Goodwood Revival
Sept. 15: Glos Railway, Toddington
Sept. 15: Whittlesey Festival Car Show
Sept. 22: Brooklands Breakfast
Sept. 22: Kettering Rally, Cranford
Sept. 28: Northampton & Lamport Railway
Sept. 28: Pistons & Props, Sywell Aerodrome
Oct. 6: Group Lunchtime Meeting
Oct. 6: Duxford
Nov. 3: Group Lunchtime Meeting
Dec. 1: Group Lunchtime Meeting/AGM
<u>Alternative Wednesday Evening Pub Meetings:</u>
Fancott, Chalton (nr. Luton)
Plough, Wingfield (nr. Leighton Buzzard)
White Horse, Husborne Crawley, Beds
Queen Adelaide, Croydon (nr. Royston)
<u>Other Suggestions:</u>
Inter-group activities
Ladies Day - 40 mile run, Lunch at National Trust house or similar
RAF Hendon
Weston Birt
Foxton Locks
Lubbenham Scarecrow Festival September?
Brooklands Breakfast Club - 15-16 June Double 12 Festival

EDITORIAL

Apologies for this rather late TRunnion. A lot has happened already this year and this is very much a 'catch-up' issue, following on from the combined AGM/'Gaining TRaction' meeting.

Many thanks to all who made it on the day, especially as snow threatened to postpone play yet again. I took the TR out about 10:00 to recce our local country lanes and they were reasonably clear with some interesting patches! We decided to leave fairly early and avoid our usual route which has a ford that actually had quite a bit of water in when we drove that way a few weeks before - probably the first time in nearly 40 years!

Nevertheless, we went cross-country and got as far as Kimpton where the road was closed. We had to backtrack and go via Codicote and the ford after all. The ford was quite deep but the road a few miles beyond was heavily flooded and pot-holed. The bow waves would have made good photos for TRaction!

Not everyone expected made it and some had similarly interesting journeys, although even longer than ours as no-one else chanced the watery route. The meeting started very late but was surprisingly productive despite the small number present..

Special thanks to Ian Freeman who had the longest journey and continues to provide regular support and advice to us as well as the other Eastern Area groups.

I don't have an official report of the AGM but the proceedings were brief and to the point, with the emphasis on the 'GT' section of the meeting. Unfortunately we have lost a committee member as Claire Palmer and Graham Orchard are moving out of the area. Thanks to Claire for her work as Treasurer and we hope you and Graham find a friendly and active local group in Surrey.

Congratulations (or commiserations!) to Julian Hensman and Graham Wade on their new roles (no longer ministers without portfolio!) and thanks for not running away after their first year on committee. Graham has taken over as Treasurer and Claire has produced the annual accounts and report, confirming that we are in a good financial state - at least compared with UK plc! Julian has stepped-up as Deputy Group Leader, removing some of the pressure from Jon Marshall to allow him to concentrate on his responsibilities as TR4/4A Registrar. I have included Claire's report and an article by

3 The TRUnion

Julian on the GT meeting which should also appear in TRaction, hopefully raising the profile of LVG within the TR Register. I should also point out that we could really use a few extra committee members, or at least help with some events - don't all rush at once!

The April meeting was extremely well attended with a record number of TRs and people, some pictured here in Magda's photo (more on our website gallery page when I get a round tuit - the web software is a pain to use, so it won't happen until next week).



We were especially pleased to see some familiar faces from earlier days, including Ian Cornish, Rob Taylor, Rob and June Hebditch, plus several new members who we hope will become regulars. It's early days yet, but perhaps we are beginning to 'gain TRaction'.

The first of our evening meetings on 17th April was reasonably well-attended, although we were disappointed to discover that The Cross Keys excellent food is not normally available in the evenings. However, we decided to hold the May meeting there and to review the option of moving the 'Third Wednesday' meeting around the area to attract members from the outer regions of LVGland. We would welcome suggestions for alternative locations (or even alternative evenings). Some possible pubs suggested by members are included in the Events Calendar and we could also consider others that we have proven popular in recent years for Sunday lunch meetings, but the main criteria is a reasonable sized car park, real ale and availability of at least bar snacks.

The Events Calendar is taking shape, including two tours planned as part of LVG's 40th Anniversary celebrations. Details of the 'Toe In The Water Tour' and 'LVG 40th Anniversary Tulip Tour' will be available shortly by email, TRUnion and on the website. We are also supporting the Letchworth Garden City Classic and Vintage Car Club annual picnic on Saturday 8th June by taking TS2 to the event and aim to display the full TR range, so please let Jon Marshall know if you can attend and with which model

TR. Ian Freeman has confirmed that the Eastern Area Groups Gathering will be on August Bank Holiday Monday at the Knebworth Classic Car Show and as the nearest local group we will naturally be supporting this. Perhaps we can reinstate the LVG 'concours' which used to be held at this event or at least award the cup for something!

Meanwhile, several of us have been out again on the CACCC 'Springing Up' and the MK Classic 'Drive It Day' tours. Unfortunately only one TR made it to the first of this year's Sporting Bears tours in Cumbria as Chris and Pat Glasbey had to cancel due to Pat falling ill - she is apparently fully recovered so things can only get better - Wales later this year!

Yesterday's STAR90 gathering of Triumphs at Gaydon was a great success. Weather was perfect, roads uncluttered (apart from Sunday drivers on the way home). Whilst enjoying our lunch on the hill overlooking the car park, I 'guestimated' attendance at 500-600 cars. I don't know if this is the largest gathering of Triumphs, but suspect it may never be exceeded as we and our cars age.



BrianC

In case you missed my appeal in previous issues of TRUnion to encourage more of you to contribute, I will be pleased to hear from rebuilders, racers, rallyists, tourists, concours specialists and especially partners and new or even prospective TR owners

Mazda MX5 Seats in a TR

I have received this enquiry from Martin Castle.

"Has anyone you know tried MX5 seats in a TR6? I have never been entirely happy with what I have...they are not originals and being tallish I need as much room as poss."

Not a problem I'm ever likely to suffer, but I suspect one or two LVG TR4-6 owners may have MX5 seats. There is a lot of discussion and advice on the TR Forum regarding which types and the various brackets available so it may be worth browsing there. However, if anyone in the group has these seats fitted and would be willing to let Martin try them, please let me know and I will pass on contact details.

**TR Register
Lea Valley Group
Accounts 4 December 2011 to 31 December 2012**

Income

31/12/11	Building Society interest £0.03 less £0.01 tax	<u>£0.02</u>
	Total	£0.02
Expenditure		
3/12/11	Buffet lunch for AGM	£75.00
29/2/12	Hall rental for Ian Cornish's talk (deposit)	£48.00
7/4/12	Hall rental for Ian Cornish's talk (balance)	£48.00
25/3/12	Payment to Rob Etienne re services for Ian Cornish's talk	£40.00
25/3/12	Gift to Ian Cornish	£25.00
7/4/12	Payment of travel expenses to Ian Cornish	<u>£30.00</u>
	Total	£(266.00)
Excess of expenditure over income		£(265.98)

Bank reconciliation

Opening balance 3/12/11	Nationwide B/S	£531.27
	Cash	<u>£4.70</u>
	Total	£535.97
Add excess of income over expenditure		<u>£265.98</u>
	Total	£269.99
 Closing balance 31/12/12	Nationwide B/S	£270.29
	Cash	<u>£(0.30)</u>
	Total	£269.99

Treasurer's Report 31 December 2012

1. Accounts show a net outflow of £265.98. This is due to the costs of Ian Cornish's talk which have not yet been reclaimed from the TR Register.
2. No fundraising activities have been out this year.
3. A claim has been submitted to the TR Register for £147 in respect of the year to 28 February 2012, comprising £24 for tickets for Woburn incurred in 2011, £75 for buffet lunch for 2011 AGM and £48 for the 50% deposit for the hire of the hall at Knights Templar School for Ian Cornish's talk .
4. A claim has been submitted to the TR Register central fund for £143 in respect of the year to 28 February 2013, comprising £48 for the balance of the hall hire to Knights Templar School, £40 for the payment to Rob Etienne for projection assistance during Ian Cornish's talk, £30 sent to Ian Cornish for travel costs and £25 for a gift presented to Ian by Jon Marshall of a bottle of Glenfiddich.
5. No purchases were proposed during the year.
6. As the claims to the TR Register central funds were not submitted during the year the accounts show a substantial net outflow, once these funds are received the balance at bank and in hand will return to a healthy £559.99.

(During periods of snow, you need to make sure you are)...
"Gaining TRaction"

During our local group meeting last December, whilst discussing what we may want to do in 2013 for our 40th anniversary, a very wise and much respected member of the Lea Valley Group said the following: "We may have to consider the future of the group". Those may not have been his exact words and he may have only half meant it, but you get the gist. My jaw dropped, yet I could not fault in any way what he had said. The group was not enjoying large numbers of attendees during the monthly socials and we were struggling to figure out what we could do.

I have to say, everyone I have met from the Lea Valley Group is pleasant in the extreme, open, friendly and truly genuine and when I heard this comment, I really thought what a shame it would be if the group did not exist. Clearly, something had to be done, and quickly. We therefore set about "Gaining TRaction".

"Gaining TRaction" was the name given to an initiative which, it is hoped, will revitalise the group and encourage active participation for years to come. After some further discussions within the group, it became clear that it was entirely probable the majority of our membership was not attending our monthly meeting either because they didn't want to or couldn't. This may seem like a simplistic thing to say, but from that simple statement comes the obvious question: Why? Long story short, we set about trying to find out and this is what "Gaining TRaction" is all about.

January 20th was set as the date we would meet to brainstorm and find solutions to all the World's problems. The whole group was invited and this in itself created quite a response and some considerable enthusiasm. Then the snow came! I need say very little about the snow this year but we thought that as a car club, it would not be very responsible of us to advocate unnecessary travel in such conditions, so we had to postpone. Eventually a new date was set for 24th March by which time, the snow of course would be long gone ...

Despite the snow in March (thanks to a kiss of death in one of Brian's emails), we did in fact manage to hold the meeting, albeit with a much reduced attendance. This was a shame but I have to say that I don't think it impacted the result too much. With a quorum of hard core, plus some new faces, we went through an agenda of pre-gathered suggestions. It was quickly established that not everybody wants to do everything, and indeed, you cannot please everyone. What resulted though was a veritable plethora of ideas and initiatives which will enable us collectively to provide and engage in, a range of activities to suit a much wider audience. Full details, should you be interested, can be obtained from the LVG website but to whet your appetite, here are some snippets that we intend to pursue:

- Technical Events / Expert Groups - these seem to be popular especially with new members who want to tap the bountiful expertise our group has to offer
- A meaningful member survey, to be conducted annually - to find out regularly what people want from our group
- An additional monthly (at first) meeting on a week night - for those people who find Sunday lunchtime inconvenient or impossible
- Greater contribution and use (yes Mr Editor, use!) of TRaction - to publicise our group activities
- Development of relationships with local garages - obvious benefits which may result in "open days", discounts, etc.
- Doing much more with other groups and clubs - to extend the network and widen the interest. This will include social events, convoys, tours and much more. Prepare to be challenged "other groups"!
- Photo Shoots - and not just the ordinary stuff, it's a bit arty too. Check out the website and see for yourself
- And finally, the planning and organisation of the Lea Valley Group 40th Anniversary Tulip Tour, or LVG40TT (supposedly for short!). This will be held on 8th September and further details will be available in due course. We also intend to celebrate our 40th at Knebworth this year and we are aware other groups also have significant anniversaries which perhaps could be combined.

In summary, I have to say, we are quite pleased with ourselves and there is a wonderful air of enthusiasm that has returned to the group. And the evidence so far as that it has had an effect, with a record for recent times of no fewer than 14 TRs in the car park for last Sunday's social

6 The TRUnion

scene. One (TR8) unfortunately slipped away before it could be snapped but the evidence is undeniable:



I have two real hopes for the outcome of "Gaining TRaction". The first is the survival and flourishing of Lea Valley Group. The second is that I hope other groups within the TR Register who may be feeling a little like we did, are as inspired as we are and that collectively, we can continue and expand our celebration of the TR brand within the TR Register. Needless to say, any and all contact from other groups is more than welcome and I would like to say a special thank you to Ian Freeman, our area co-ordinator for his continued support in our efforts.

In finishing, and on behalf of the LVG committee, I also want to thank everybody in Lea Valley Group, the regulars, Pat and Chris for LVG40TT, Magda for the photos, the new members and their crews (too many to list here!), and all the existing members who have stepped up. And if you are a member in the LVG catchment area, or are considering becoming one, why not come and check us out? Go on, I dare you!

Julian Hensman

More of Magda's photos later, but Julian has also provided a few interesting photos of his own from the April meeting.





Lea Valley Group Events 2012

Traditionally, the AGM report contains a list of the year's events, so here is a selection. Although less events were promoted or supported as 'official LVG events' on the Group Calendar during 2012 than has been customary, the following are some which were offered or suggested as possibly of interest to members.

Some which I attended:

- New Year's Lunch at The Cock
- MK Classic Tours' 'The First Run'
- Ian Cornish Talk on the Works TR4 Rally Cars
- CACCC 'Springing-Up' Tour
- MK Classic Tours' Drive It Day Tour
- Barking Mad Novelty Dog Show to raise money for 'Hounds For Heroes'
- Letchworth Classic and Vintage Car Club's Picnic
- Sporting Bears Caper in Cumbria
- Convoy run to the Standard Triumph Marque Day at Prescott
- Luton Festival of Transport, Stockwood Park
- CACCC Tibble's Tour
- Retro Show at Santa Pod
- Classics on The Common, Harpenden
- Little Gransden Show and Flying Display
- Knebworth Classic Motor Show
- TRR IWE at Malvern
- Classic Wheels at Willington Dovecote with TSSC
- Panshanger Revival with TSSC and TRR North London Group
- Buckingham Steam Rail Centre Pre-78 Rally with TSSC followed by a very wet barbecue at their Hitchin hostelry.
- MK Classic 'Last of the Summer Tour'
- Kop Hill Climb
- Nostalgia Forum Motor Sport Film Show - 'Theme Lotus' featuring Jackie Oliver and Murray Walker, plus 'The History of Snetterton Motor Racing Circuit' with artist and Snetterton historian Andrew Kitson)
- Nostalgia Forum Motor Sport Film Show - theme for the day was about

racing car designers, featuring Frank Dernie and Neil Oatley being interviewed by Murray Walker

- CACCC 'Falling Down' Tour
- TRGB Autojumble
- TRR AGM at Gaydon
- Open Day at TSSC Headquarters at Lubenham, Leicestershire

...and to kick off 2013, a brilliant convoy run with TRR North London Group to Stony Stratford for the New Years Day Vintage Stony meeting

Lynda and I missed the following but others may have gone:

- Camb Followers at the Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre to savour the Lancaster taxi rides
- Olde Watermill Classic Car Rally, Barton-le-Clay
- Classics in the Walled Garden, Luton Hoo
- Silverstone Classic
- Oxfordshire Classic Car Show, Blenheim Palace
- Goodwood Revival
- Transport Day at Milton Keynes Museum
- All-Triumph Day at Duxford

Non-events:

- SBMC Kimbolton Fayre/Classic Car Show was cancelled due to waterlogged grounds
- Unfortunately, Team Triumph TR wasn't ready in time for the BMH Four-Hour Relay Race at Snetterton - maybe in 2013?

LVG40 Event #1**LGCCVCC Picnic - Saturday 8th June 2013**

LVG is supporting this event as part of our 40th Anniversary celebrations and will be representing the TR Register by bringing TS2.

All group members are invited to bring a picnic and we aim to display the full TR range, so please let us know if you can attend and with which model TR. **Note that this is on a Saturday.**

If you are planning to attend, please contact Jon Marshall as soon as possible and let him know which model of car you will be bringing. Please don't worry about not having a concours car - our TR3A certainly isn't. We simply aim to show a good range of club cars (including derivatives if possible) as well as TS2.

Welcome to Letchworth Garden City Classic & Vintage Car Club

The club is a gathering of like-minded owners of classic and vintage (and even some Veteran) vehicles, meeting on the first Monday of each month at the Rising Sun public house at Halls Green, near Weston. Set in delightful countryside on a quiet lane, the pub has a very friendly landlord and landlady, excellent beers and food, and a large car park that is ideal for our gatherings. Most club nights in the warmer and lighter months see a wide variety of vehicles on display and the opportunity for members, friends, and the public to chat about all things to do with 'proper motoring'.

There is little formality in proceedings and anyone is welcome to attend a couple of meetings before making the decision to join. The current annual subscription is just £10.

All types of interesting vehicles and their owners are welcome to attend.

The club organises occasional speakers, joint meetings with other car clubs, and attendance at shows and rallies for either individual or group entry – where we will have a club stand.

A club magazine is published bi-monthly and contributions of stories and pictures are always welcome.

To get in touch, click the contact link:
<http://www.lgccvcc.co.uk/contact.html>.

We look forward to meeting you.

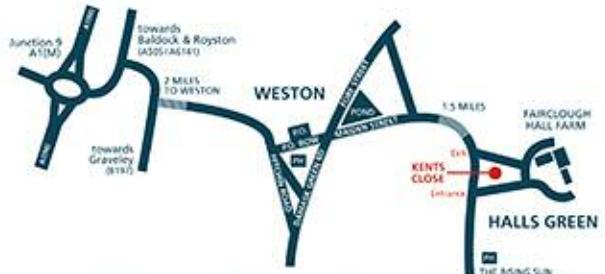
HALLS GREEN 8th JUNE 2013



Letchworth Classic & Vintage Car Club PICNIC & FAMILY DAY

HALLS GREEN 8th JUNE 2013

Bring your own classic or vintage vehicle & your picnic and join us



**KENTS CLOSE, FAIRCLOUGH HALL FARM,
HALLS GREEN, WESTON, HERTFORDSHIRE SG4 7DP**

11-3pm TICKETS: £5 PER VEHICLE / £2 PEDESTRIANS

**BAND, CREAM TEAS, CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES, CAR GYMKHANA,
CRAFT STALLS, VINTAGE BICYCLES, CAR OF THE SHOW AWARD**

For more details please contact:- picnic@lgccvcc.co.uk 01462 674347 or visit www.lgccvcc.co.uk
THE ORGANISERS RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE ADMISSION



**NATIONAL PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE
BUNTINGFORD**
J. Oliver Riley Opticians
at High Street, Buntingford, Herts, SG9 9AA
01763 273300
www.RileyOpticians.com



LVG40 Event #2

Toe In The Water Tour - Sunday 7th July 2013

A morning tour organised by Pete Muncer and finishing at The Cock, Broom in time for the Sunday Lunchtime Meeting.

As many long-term members of LVG are aware, Pete has a well deserved reputation for organising one and two day tours, and many of us have been on these with the Carpenters Arms Classic Car Club. Several newer members have expressed an interest in touring but are unsure how difficult the navigation will be. We have persuaded Pete to put together a short tour to enable everyone to dip a 'toe in the water' and discover that it is not at all difficult or stressful and encourage many to enter the one-day LVG40TT tour organised by Chris and Pat Glasbey in September.

The Toe In The Water (TITW) Tour will be approximately 60 miles, starting at Baldock Services, A1M Junction 10, (first car to leave at 10am) with a halfway halt for coffee, etc., and arriving back at The Cock in time for lunch.

Entry is free and cost of organising and checking the route and producing the road-book will be met from LVG club funds.

The road book will be in a format common to most non-competitive classic car 'scenic tours' and will include a Tulip-tutorial page, which will be available in time for the June monthly meetings for anyone needing a demo/instruction session. Do not be frightened by the navigation - it's not like a competitive rally so no Ordnance Survey maps will be required. No-one ever gets lost (at least not for long!), and someone will be running at the back to sweep up stragglers so everyone should be back well before closing time! The aim of this is to involve as many local group members as possible, so even if you don't have a TR on the road at present, you can use any other car. If anyone is in need of a navigator or would like to navigate for someone else, then I'm sure we could match them up! Just email me if you are interested to give us an indication of the number of road books to be printed.

We really do hope many of the group will take this opportunity to dip their toes and enjoy the experience sufficiently to also join us and neighbouring TR groups in ...

LVG40 Event #3

Lea Valley Group 40th Anniversary Tulip Tour (LVG40TT)

Sunday 8th September 2013

TR Register Lea Valley Group Tour to celebrate 40th Anniversary of LVG

Lea Valley Group invite members and friends from all Eastern Area and neighbouring groups to join us in a social (non-competitive) tour organised as part of our 40th Anniversary celebrations.

The start venue is near the M11 at A120 where breakfast will be available for those who want it. TRs will set off at intervals using easy navigation via a Tulip-style road book.

The tour will follow a scenic route through the attractive countryside and villages of Essex and Suffolk, to arrive for lunch at a farm venue and then continue via estuary views and more Essex and Suffolk countryside for a tea-time finish at a woodland park near the A120 and A12.

The entry fee will be kept low at approximately £20 per car to cover organising costs, rally plate and road book. Bring or buy your own breakfast/lunch/tea.

For further details and Entry Form contact: Brian Chidwick (bjimole1-trlvg@yahoo.co.uk)

Entries open from 15 May and close 6th August.

[This event is also being advertised in TRaction and on the TR Forum, so please book early]

A Tale of Three Tours

I won't bore you with an in-depth report on any of these, but I just wanted to provide an indication of the wide variety of different touring events available for those who like to drive their TRs.

CACCC Springing-Up Tour

Along with several other LVG members Lynda and I have enjoyed a number of one and two-day events with the Carpenters Arms Classic Car Club. Although not exactly local to us, as the pub is in Harpenden, we have been made very welcome by the members and each event brings out a wide range of classic machinery with the aim of enjoying a social and driving experience whilst also raising money for charity. Funds raised by events are divided up and shared amongst different charities at the end of each year, such as supporting a school in Namibia, Multiple Sclerosis charity and the Hertfordshire Jumbulance.

The Springing-Up Tour is an overnighter, based at a hotel and entrants are free to make their own way there on the Saturday, arriving in time for local sight-seeing, drinks, evening meal and raffle. A road book provides a 'suggested route' back to the Carpenters Arms on the Sunday, via a number of optional 'checkpoints' and places of interest.

This year's event was based at Nyetimber, just along from Bognor Regis and was a rare opportunity for us to visit the South coast. Although the weather was increasingly wet on the trip down, we made it topless and were able to get the hood up in the hotel car park before the storm broke. I never thought I'd say it, but I never want to get marooned in a hotel/pub again. Pleasant as it was, we missed the opportunity to visit the coast and the thought of the long drive next day severely impeded the temptation to sample too much in the bar.

Fortunately, the weather improved the following morning and by the time we reached the first stop at Tangmere Aviation Museum, the hood has dry enough to remove to enjoy the rest of the tour 'al fresco'. Much as we both would have liked a long look around at this important WWII Spitfire base (renowned for its association with Douglas Bader), we left it for another day so that we could spend time at the next venue - the Mid-Hants Railway (known as the Watercress Line). No apologies for these gratuitous photos of the magnificent SR 'Lord Nelson' - I like steam trains and am a Man of Kent!



Other optional stops included several National Trust houses and gardens, but we chose to visit Jody Scheckter's Laverstoke Park Farm. Organic farming may seem a strange career progression for a former F1 World Champion. Unfortunately, we didn't see any of his buffalo but we can vouch for the quality of the mozzarella and other food available from the farm shop.

A feature of Pete Muncer's routes is the long stretches of virtually traffic-free country roads, often single-track but usually with good visibility. Driving a TR, or any other classic for that matter, on these roads must be as close to stepping back in-period as possible. On this type of tour, it is not difficult to discover quaint old unspoilt pubs in rural locations (and we usually do!).

MK Classic (Drive It Day) Tour

Many of the group have been on this popular one-day tour over the years and it's one that is just a little bit different. The main attraction for most of us is the chance to drive our own cars on the Alpine Circuit at Millbrook Proving Ground. This year was the second time for me and after last year's slightly cautious laps, I was able to make more of it this time.

However, with only two laps, you are only just getting familiar when it's time to come off and even previous experience doesn't help that much, as they change the configuration each year. A lot of the road sections are familiar to regulars but the organisers still manage to find some fresh ground to keep it interesting and the variety of cars also adds a frisson. I had my son Ben as navigator again this year and he was surprised and impressed at the number of younger drivers, some in probably their parents' classics but quite a few in more modern sports and 'retro' cars.

The halfway tea and coffee stop was at Sywell Aerodrome, a popular checkpoint for local car tours, and this time we encountered a huge contingent of other classics on the Hagerty Rally. After watching the helicopters, ogling the other classics and another quick trip round the aviation museum, we set off via rural country villages for the other main attraction, the Porsche Experience at Silverstone. Fortunately, several of the LVG regulars were in the early arrivals here and were able to get onto the 'circuit' immediately, although the high-number runners had to queue (you really do have to book early to get the advantage on this event). Completely different from Millbrook, the short 'Handling Circuit' leads to a 'Low-Friction' area where you can do doughnuts and generally mess about exploring the limitations of the car. The natural tendency for most drivers is to avoid skidding, but once you overcome this, it's great fun. The final part of the experience is the 'Ice Hill' which is another low friction area, this time with running water and fountains providing a downhill slalom. Another advantage of being an early runner, is that we were able to watch later arrivals and compare our performances!

Money raised from this tour goes to the Milton Keynes Neonatal Unit 'Little Lives Appeal'.

I hope these three mini-reports will encourage others to try touring as a rewarding way of using a classic car (or indeed any sporting car) and making new friends, whilst also raising money for good causes.

SBMC Caper Revival 2013 Tour

Lynda and I joined the Sporting Bears Motor Club in 2005 when Lynda bought her TR4A and we entered our first Bears tour when we finally got my TR3A back on the road in 2007. We had no idea what to expect but it provided an excellent running-in exercise and got us completely hooked on TouRing. Incidentally, this was organised by Chris and Pat Glasbey who are kindly planning our LVG40TT for September.

Since then we have done one or two tours with the SBMC every year in various parts of the UK and each has been very different in character, dependent on the organiser and location. This one was once again based in Cumbria and kicked-off with dinner on Friday evening followed by an early start on the Saturday morning. The 180 mile route took us via the Eden Valley, Solway Estuary and Border Reiver territory for lunch at Ecclefechan just North of Gretna Green. The return journey included miles of open country road and beautiful scenic views. Along with organiser Paul's Jaguar Mk2, our 1960 TR3A was the oldest car on this tour, but despite the number of more modern and exotic sports cars, I'm pleased to say the TR was able to keep pace with them - the potholes and rough roads benefited our rally-style suspension set-up far more than that of the Ferraris, Porsches, TVRs, etc., and although the rattles were rather disconcerting, nothing actually fell off!

Apart from enjoying our cars, the main objective of the SBMC is to raise money for children's charities, so the Saturday evening dinner included an auction in aid of the Eden Valley Children's Hospice, adding to a percentage of entry and accommodation fees.

Following the lengthy first day run, Sunday's was much shorter, taking us through the Lake District in torrential rain via extremely narrow, twisty country lanes (tracks!?) and the Kirkstone Pass for a barbecue and boat trip on Ullswater with return journey back to our cars on a classic 1955 AEC Regent double-decker bus. As this was a Bank Holiday, many of the group stayed on for the extra night or more to turn it into a mini-break and this is what we do with most of the longer tours we enter.

Members' Stories Photos

For this issue, I've decided to use this section to include a few of Magda's 'reflective' photos which I hope will encourage others to get creative and submit their own.

Members' Stories will be back!



© MMalkowiak



© MMalkowiak



© MMalkowiak



DAS 352



© MMalkowiak

Classified Adverts

If you have anything to sell/buy or lend/borrow, please email me and I will include it in the next TRunnion.

FOR SALE

1 x pair of front seats taken from a Triumph Herald 13/60. Black, good condition (seats were in regular use but replaced by those from a Mazda MX5 in readiness for the club Triumph "Round Britain Run 2012").

Stored at Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire

£200 o.n.o

Ian McConchie
01462 682140 evenings and weekends
07855 237595

~00~

TR7 Haynes Workshop Manual

Triumph TR7 1975-1982 All Models 1998cc
Workshop Manual. As new, clean condition.

£12

TR4-4A Spares

Offers invited for the following surplus items:

- * Smith's 12V +ve earth rectangular clock (tested working Jan 2010). I bought this with the intention of fitting it in the ashtray aperture so could easily be insulated and used on -ve earth cars.

- * Set of 4 Kevlar heater hoses (Adaptor to heater valve, adaptor to block, under dash inlet & outlet) (new)

- * S/S water return pipe (TR2-4A) (new)

- * Vent flap rod (611117) (new)

- * Vent flap lever knob (615888) - marked 'B' so not exactly as original (new)

- * Smith's voltage stabilizer (NOS from Dave Gleed)

- * Horn-push plunger/brush (142534 - 2.6" long) (new)

- * Spare wheel retaining hooks, wing-nut and disk assembly (used)

- * Ignition switch and key (used but recently tested).

Brian Chidwick (Contact details as on page 1)