

# RED ROSE RAMBLINGS FEB 2017



What a strange start to the New Year a couple of historic moments, Brexit and the election of Donald Trump. If anyone is not aware of what I am on about you must have been unconscious for a month.

On a personal level I am not really over enthused although I'm sure that those two gladiators of world politics Donald and

Theresa will hand in hand ensure that we all live happily ever after.

Enough of that, back to business.

## **The AGM**

This is the First meeting of the year, the AGM held at the Antrobus Arms on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January. There was a good turn out to listen to Bob's annual statement. The

hubbub of an expectant and excited audience was curtailed by the time honoured clinking of pencil on beer glass. For those at the back who did not hear the drum roll first time the process was repeated with great gusto and vigour by our chairman. As quiet finally descended and hush filled the room, Bob got his feet. He recalled the events and meetings of 2016 and trips that we had undertaken. I don't intend to detail the whole year in finite detail due to space restrictions. Afterwards he moved on to make two awards to members for outstanding contributions to the

club during the year.

The first award which is at the chairman's discretion was made to David Rhodes for his outstanding contribution to music, (no sorry) for putting us all through his annual quiz. A great event, plenty of banter and talking points, every year and a very enjoyable hour or so. For his efforts David was awarded the The Redrose Cup.

The Mike Conry Memorial Cup, for the best event and voted for by the members was presented to Jonathon/Caroline/Carole and Mike for their superb day at The Antrobus Village Hall.

Next to his feet our cashier John Leleu. John explained item by item the ins and outs of the accounts for 2015 and 2016. Now I'm no accountant but it appears to me that we are still in the black even having incurred the expense of the TR Fest. One item however did puzzle me, that relating to a Redrose Caribbean Cruise. Well I'm not one for questioning Chancellor John but it is one trip I missed out on.

Finally it was announced that we have a new deputy chairman, enter Johnathon Smith formally our Merseyside representative who takes over from Steve

Dyne who returns to the backbenches. Thanks Steve for your contributions to the club and hope all goes well in Ukulele land.

Jonathon has already made his mark with the introduction of The Redrose Bulletin. A monthly news sheet updating the group's antics. Paper copies will be available at the A.A. monthly meeting and on our web site. I will endeavour to post copies to those without an internet connection.

### **The Events Meeting**

Next up The Events Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February. I estimate that were nearly 50 in attendance. A fantastic turn out on a cold and

miserable day.

The first item on the agenda, a new photographic competition organised by Tim Davies. Members submitted their photos to Caroline who in turn arranged, catalogued and printed them. All were displayed on the rear wall of our meeting room. The photographs were judged by the members applying their expertise and awarding them first, second and third places. Tim computed the bits of paper and despite rumours of Russian hacking came to the conclusion that the winners were Mike & Pauline. Pauline was presented with a



Jessops £20.00 gift voucher and a plaque "The Redrose Group Photograph of the Year." The rules are pretty simple, well actually I'm not sure that there are any.

Tim proposes to use the winning photographs for a RedRose calendar. What a great idea. The picture on page 1 is the winning photograph. It

is intended that this will become an annual event

Some background to the winning photograph is this contribution by John and Anne Thorpe

“The photograph was taken during a Red Rose holiday to France in 2007.

John and I had previously visited the Chateau of Comte Audoin de Dampierre to buy Champagne for our daughter’s wedding. Whilst there The Count took us to see his private collection of classic cars.

An Aston Martin DB4 GT.

A pre-war Alvis which

had a coach built body by Gurney Nutting.

A pre-war Delahey.

A Facel Vega with sodium cooled valves of 1950s or 1960s vintage.

Finally Post war Simca and Citroen classic cars.

When we told the Count about the Red Rose Tr group he said “If you bring your group here, for a few Euros I will arrange a lunch for you”.

Two years later he and his wife, honoured that promise and took us on a tour of his car collection followed by Champagne tasting on the terrace and finally served by his butler, lunch in his private dining room.

The Champagne is made from Pinot Noir and

Chardonnay grapes. The bottles are distinctive as they have the old fashioned tying by hemp and twine, a craft technique born in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and a symbol of luxury to the French. The brands are sold in Harrods, Macys and supplied to French Embassies and 36 countries around the world.

The Count retired in 2011 and was succeeded by Mr Philip Rozy. Of all the experiences we have enjoyed with the TR this was the most unbelievable and memorable."

Finally we got to the main event of the meeting, 2017 events.

What a bumper year we have in prospect. More events than ever. Our 2017 Calendar and Bulletin will be updated as events are confirmed. Just a reminder where o v e r n i g h t accommodation is required early booking is essential.

### **A.C.F Howell**

I have in the past asked members to recommend companies.

Well I have one in mind.

ACF Howell, Croft Street, Walsall West Midlands WS2 8JR,

Contact Adam Howell, Telephone 01922 649992

They repaired and re chromed my rear light surround. The monkey metal is famous for

pitting, I went to the factory and was very impressed by processes the pieces are subjected Acid bath cleaning, welding, grinding, plating, and polishing. The whole process cost less than £100.00. Phil Bateman also used the same company for the rechroming of his E-type. As a name dropper ACF Howell boast Aston Martin as one of their clients.

### **Sad Story**

On our trip last year to the Trough of Bowland I had a bit of a problem. Hitting an award winning pot hole which resulted in a nasty banging noise from the rear. My first thought, a failure of the Spax shock absorber.



A close roadside inspection revealed nothing.

I announced my retirement from the event and hobbled home. The following day I made my way to TRBitz.

With Craig lay on his back, half under the nearside came the cry "Hoy you had better have a look a look; your trailing arm has fractured". A nice bright shiny one was found and fitted.

The problem is not uncommon and is recognised by the Triumph experts. Roger Williams in his book "How to restore Triumph TR5/250 & TR6." shows exactly this problem. He writes " Its due to stress and aging." That's a fair observation. I would go even further and say that aluminium castings from over 40 years ago

contained more impurities than that from a modern foundry.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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