
WESSEX NEWS

Preserving the marque in Hampshire

Happy New Year and welcome to the first Wessex News of 2015. I didn't edit the last two editions as Jim and I were away on holiday . We had a wonderful time cruising all around the Mediterranean with lots of stops and even more food and drink. Even on holiday though, we were still able to enjoy some lovely motorcars.

The last stop on our trip was in Malaga, Spain. We had noticed on the list of visits that it was possible to go to a motor museum, so of course we signed up. After much messing about at places of historic interest and another cup of coffee at a Parador we finally arrived at the Museo Automovilistico Malaga . Now I have wandered around lots of car museums and have enjoyed them but this one has a bit of a twist. The family that owns all of the cars, also owns a huge automotive art collection and a collection of vintage ladies clothing and accessories. This means it was perfect for both of us.



The exhibits were cleverly displayed with a beautiful car, the designer clothing of the appropriate era and amazing artwork, all in the same place. It is stunning.

If you ever find yourself in Malaga go for a visit, its only 7 Euros to get in and money well spent.



A word from our leader

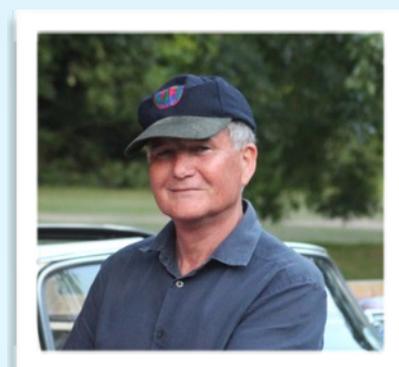
A happy New Year to everyone

Just been up to Wessex Towers to see what Nigel has left behind. What a mess! He could have cleared up before he left! If you have been reading the newsletters, you will know that Nigel stepped down from the group leader role at the end of 2014 and we wish him all the best and hope he manages to fill all his newly found free time. To make sure we maintain standards we have a new group leader, me, Stuart Thompson, and a very able deputy, Jim Pullen.

Two events at the end of 2014 I want to mention. In November, Nigel, Kevin, Jim, Roy and myself presented a large cheque from the Wessex group to Naomi House in Sutton Scotney. Naomi House is a hospice for children and most of the money came from a collection we had at the invited car night in July. Secondly the Christmas dinner went very well last month and it was pleasing to see 33 members tucking into their food! See report later.

We have a lot of club nights, events and runs planned for 2015. By the time you read this we would have had Jim's run to Alresford and The Watercress line. The forecast for the day looks OK as I write this. I'm organising the run in February (8th) and I'm very hopefully to have the TR on the road after 18 months laid up. February club night on the 24th is going to be one of Roy's challenging quizzes! In March we will have the 25th anniversary duck race and last but not least skittles on the 24th.

I think that is all from me So TTFN



November Club Night

The last club night of 2014 saw us at the Nondescripts club for our now familiar movie night with mince pies. Once again the evening was well supported and it gave us all a great chance to discuss our upcoming winter projects.

Nigel began the evening by announcing he was standing down as Group Leader after some 9 years at the wheel. He gave a very eloquent account of his tenure and nearly received a standing ovation. He quickly went on to announce that Stuart will take over as GL and Jim will be Deputy GL.

Nigel remarked how difficult a decision it had been to give up being GL and how sad it made him feel. He did manage to pose for a picture though!

Entertainment was offered in the form of a film about the history of the Spitfire which led us nicely on to those delicious mince pies. Thanks Ann, top marks as usual.



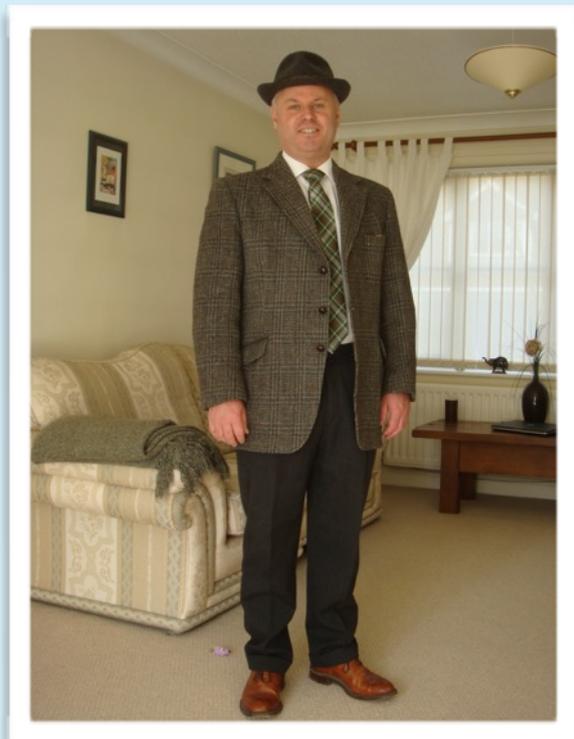
In the award section Jim Pullen was given his rather smart looking cup for winning the best TR Action picture of the year.





During the interval mince pies were served and as you can see Nigel took full control of pie distribution.

it wasn't all good news though, during the evening Nigel did confide in me that he thought he was starting to dress like his father!



And finally with such an eventful evening who can blame him when it all got a bit much.

Naomi House Donation

As I'm sure many of you will remember and indeed attended, we had a great evening out in July at our 'Invited Car Night' in the grounds of IBM Hursley. We had over 100 cars displayed on the grass on a rather warm and pleasant summer's evening.



Whilst we had so many cars in one place, we thought it an ideal opportunity to raise some money for a worthwhile cause and with a bit of bucket rattling, raised just over £150 on the night and subsequently made this up to £200 from our own club runs. It didn't take much discussion to nominate Naomi House Children's Hospice as a very worthy recipient.

Naomi House is a hospice specialising in children with life limiting illness and providing end of life care. They cover most of the South Coast including Hampshire and Wiltshire and rely on fundraising to provide 90% of their yearly running costs. I'm sure many of you will have heard of



Naomi House and the good work they do. In contrast to our warm July evening, on a rather cold and drizzly November afternoon, member's of the Wessex Group Social Committee, took some TR's along to Naomi House and presented them with our rather oversized cheque. As you can see from the pictures we were very well received and thanked for the donation.

Whilst as a group we all enjoy the excellent countryside runs, events, shows and our infamous 'Natter & Noggins' it's only right that when the opportunity arises we give something back, in this case to support children who will never be able to enjoy the delights we all take for granted.

Naomi House & Jacksplace

Letter of Thanks

Telephone: 01962 760060
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Our ref: 114830
 Journal: 405628

27 November 2014

Mr Stuart Thompson
 Wessex TR Register
 New Forest Nondescripts Club
 Crown Lodge
 Lyndhurst
 SO43 7BG



Dear Mr Thompson

Thank you so much for your donation of £200.00 raised at your recent car meet. I'd also like to thank you for visiting the hospice to present the cheque and bringing along the 3 vintage Triumphs, I'm sorry I missed you, and them! Everyone at Naomi House and Jacksplace is so grateful to you for your continuing support.

With Christmas just around the corner our hospices are busier than ever. Not only do we have lots of children and young people staying with us for respite breaks, but our team are putting together their plans for a very special festive season.

With dozens of rooms to decorate, hundreds of presents to wrap and countless roast dinners to cook, we can't start our preparations early enough. Your support means that we can be there for life-limited children, young people and their families at this special time of year.

We are currently in the process of bringing Naomi House's facilities right up-to-date. Naomi House is a building site at the moment, and the children are staying in fantastic temporary accommodation at Jacksplace. The building project is making great progress but we need help to reach our fundraising goal of £4 million. We are calling our plans The Caterpillar Appeal and would love for you to be involved. Please visit www.caterpillarappeal.org.uk for more information.

As you can imagine, without the tremendous generosity of individuals, businesses and groups in the community, we could not keep the doors of Naomi House and Jacksplace open, so once again thank you for your donation, it does make a big difference.

Yours sincerely

Paul Morgan
 Head of Fundraising

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Wessex Children's Hospice Trust (a company limited by guarantee). Charity Registration No. 1002832. Registered in England No. 2601495.

Wessex Christmas Dinner

A chilly and very dark evening in Cadnam saw the great and good descend on Le Chanteclerc Restaurant for our Christmas dinner. A pre dinner drink was enjoyed catching up on the year's activities and it was good to see some new members with their partners enjoying the more inclusive side of TR's.

We were fortunate to have a large room to ourselves except for one table who ate their meal in stunned silence, I'm really not sure what they made of us but they did ask if they could come again next year!

We were treated to some excellent food with a french influence and enjoyed the evening chatting to like minded people.



It seems the Christmas Crackers had Triumph traits with many not working first time, which lead to some ingenious improvisation. This upset the purists who claimed now the cracker had been altered it was no longer original, it was worth less and couldn't remain on the same table as the original crackers. However, those that supported the modified cracker declared it now worked better, with a better paper hat, and a joke that hadn't been heard before. Plus, the enclosed gift of a thimble set and paper tape measure was actually useful. The purists countered, that whilst they agreed the gift of a plastic protractor was of poor quality and the angles were all wrong, it was the supplied gift when the cracker was made and they had a duty to preserve it. Alas when the waitresses resupplied the tables with the new stock crackers they were immediately dismissed because they were made at a different cracker factory, and even though they were still called a cracker they no longer looked like the original cracker. They were ugly and the 'wedge' cracker would never be popular and worth less than the modified or original cracker.

Following coffee it was time for Stuart to thank our outgoing Group Leader Nigel, for the excellent work he has done for the group over the last 9 years. His long suffering wife, Liz, was given a lovely basket of flowers.



Nigel was treated to a large canvas print of him driving his TR4 in the evening Hampshire sun and an engraved tankard to remind him of his time as Group Leader.



We finished the evening with a group picture of past GL's giving the appropriate sign when asked 'Anyone fancy a pint, I'm buying?'



Finally a big 'thank you' to Sue Chorley for organising this years dinner. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Thanks Sue.

By Jim Pullen

Cobweb Run to the Watercress Line

If ever there was a Wessex event totally dependent on the weather it has to be the first run of the season. Last year was a total wash out and the year before postponed for a month. It was touch and go though, the day before wasn't too clever and the day after it poured down with temperatures plummeting, but this year I can announce we had a great day out.



8 cars assembled at Ower services in bright sunshine for a run through Romsey, Stockbridge, Sutton Scotney and Micheldever before arriving at Alresford Station. You may notice the odd one out in the pictures. Phil and Val Webb in their lovely Rolls Royce 20/25 took up mid position on the run which gave the TR in front a great sight in their rear view mirror. Under braking it really is true that 'objects may appear bigger' particularly if you try to outbrake a RR in your TR!



We also welcomed Derek Davey whom you may recall came along to our Clean Car Night looking at buying a TR4 but has had his head turned by a very nice 6 running on triple webers, we didn't get much of an opportunity to chat on Sunday but I know Dave is keen to soak up knowledge from fellow 6 owners and look forward to seeing him at N&N on the 27th. You can also spot Steve Harridge's blue long door TR2 aptly named 'George'. Now I'm no expert but there can't be too many of them around! To keep us in our place we were joined by a very nimble Spitfire.

Now we have set the bar for Wessex runs in 2015 I hope you can join us for our next run on the 8th February.

Thanks to every one who came along for the run and look forward to seeing you throughout the year.

Jim Pullen

<http://watercressline.co.uk>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rolls-Royce_20/25



The Invasion of The Somme (98 Years Late!)

By Phil & Val Webb

As with so many good ideas it started with the words “Wouldn’t it be a good idea if we....”

These words were quickly taken up and passed on.... very soon eight intrepid car enthusiasts Jon and Allison(J&A)Lamb (Triumph Stag), Claudine and Mike(C&M)Lock (Triumph TR6), Phil and Val(P&V) Webb (Triumph TR3a) and Roger and Julie(R&J) Winwood (Honda SP200) were committed to invading France !

Thinking a planning meeting was required (and because she loves entertaining) Claudine invited everyone round for lunch - hic, a basic list of essentials to take with us was drawn up (gin,vodka etc) and fine details of the plan of attack agreed....

It was to be a three pronged assault with Roger and Julie taking the northern flank via Calais, J&A went a day ahead via Dieppe with reinforcements C&M and V&P also travelling from Dieppe via the ferry (circa £110 return).



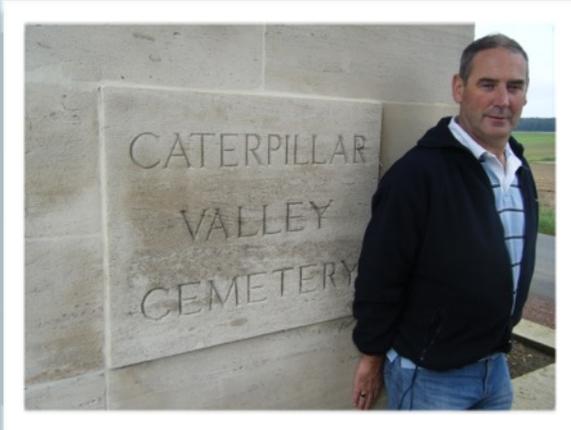
The invasion Force L-R Phil, Val, Allison, John, Roger, Julie, Mike & Claudine

Landing unopposed in France we headed for Albert in the Somme, the last town before our rented farmhouse in Hardecourt aux Bois. We had planned our route meticulously but decided instead to rely on the Sat-Nav which took us an alternative route using the motorways/A roads. The two Triumphs drove wonderfully and we got lots of waves and smiles from the locals. Arriving in Albert we hit the D938 and made the classic mistake of going left when we should have gone right – so very easily done.

Arriving a Chevasse Farm house, we found four alcoholics already half cut- so - if you can’t beat them – try and catch them up!

We broke open the first days rations of alcohol, and then the second and then the third and then my brain went all funny

Another planning meeting (conducted in a bit of an alcoholic haze) agreed that we should head off to the nearby Caterpillar cemetery. Mike had a long lost relative that we wanted to pay his respects to, sadly no one from the family had ever been before and Mike was keen to put that right .



The final resting place of more than 5,500 young men



Mike paying his respects to his relative Private E Henderson who died for his Country aged 21 yrs.



The weather meant that hoods came down and we went next to the Ulster Tower, a beautiful memorial for the fallen of the Irish 36th division in Thiepval. A time for a coffee and reflection on the thousands of men that had died so horribly in these now beautiful green fields.

But no amount of reflection could have prepared us for the magnificence of the Thiepval Memorial itself. The largest memorial in Europe it stands some 160' high. It was built on foundations 19' deep

necessary because of the extensive wartime tunnelling beneath.



Here are recorded names of 79,195 officers and men of the British Armies who fell on the Somme battlefields between July 1915 and March 1918 but to whom the fortune of war denied the known and honoured burial given to their comrades in death.

Road safety and compliance with the legislative requirements of the host Country were important to most of our team, we took Hi-viz jackets, fire extinguishers, documentation and, most importantly of all - beam deflectors – I say most of us did the right thing but sadly I have to report one individual didn't..... not for me to mention names here.....



Phil and Val (Note the legally required beam deflectors)



Mike and Claudine enjoying the open road, you can't see them but Mike hasn't got any beam deflectors fitted

From here we drove to Arras and visited the tunnel museum. Thousands of soldiers were billeted in the tunnels for eight days prior to the start of the Arras offensive on 9 April 1917. At 05:30 that morning, exits were dynamited to enable the troops to storm the German trenches. The Germans were taken by surprise and were pushed back 11 km (6.8 mi). This counted as an extraordinary success by the standards of the time. However, the offensive soon bogged down and it was eventually called off after casualties reached 4,000 a day !



Here we eventually found a restaurant that was open and enjoyed a good meal at a reasonable price – I do however have to report a serious breach of etiquette one that necessitated the Maitre d'hotel to intervene and instruct Mike to remove his hat, the shame of it, and us British !!!!



The Rum Ration – our own pub !

Returning to Chevasse we all went down the garden to 'The Rum Ration' an English pub like room that was all ours – finding the fridge full of free beer really made it a good night. Jon's attempts to get the fire going resulted in the room rapidly filling with smoke and sparks but by then the beer had taken its effect and no one cared.

Rising early we had breakfast and set off in low cloud towards Vimy Ridge. It was dreadfully obvious to all of us the huge losses suffered in this War, it seemed that every half a mile there was yet another cemetery filled with young men.

The cars were behaving beautifully and the reception given to them by the French was wonderful – lots of smiles waves and hooting of horns - lovely

Vimy Ridge is an incredible memorial to the 11169 Canadians that fell storming the ridge. But take it they did. It is said that it was here that Canada became a Nation.

Not only is there the Monument with its breath taking views but also The Canadian Government have preserved the underground tunnels and trenches. A great visit and one we all highly recommend.



Roger, Phil and Mike went bravely up to the front – John volunteered to stay and look after the girls !!



Private's Webb and Lamb with their prisoner Uptonogooden Lock



Can you spot the non Triumph owner? Clue: he's the one with an electric hood and air conditioning.

Other visits included Beaumont Hamel, the place where the Newfoundland Regiment was virtually wiped out in 20 minutes. Of 758 that went into battle only 68 were available for roll call the next day.....

We also went to the Welsh Memorial to their taking of the Mametz Wood.

This stunning Welsh dragon memorial overlooks the area where the 38th (Welsh) Division attacked Mametz Wood between 7th and 14th July 1916. The wood was eventually cleared by 14th July but at a cost of over 4,000 British casualties.



On our last day we visited Fricourt German Cemetery. It was here that Manfred Von Richtofen was originally interred until his brother took him back to Germany. According to the visitor book, very few Germans seem to visit, its nearly all Brits. It had a very different feel to the British cemeteries which seem more of a celebration than this very sombre place.

Setting off home we blasted down the main roads until sadly Roger had a puncture, that unfortunately was the last we saw of him as he then headed North towards the Chunnel We told him to get a Triumph !! (but he still got home before us !!).

At the Ferry Port Jon had a problem with a boot that wouldn't unlock, a worry in case the Customs asked him to open it, but a few fiddles here and there he rectified the fault "with the laying on of hands" (Technical term for not actually doing anything)

Finally a blast home down the A/M27 to home circa midnight.

Thanks to Jon and Allison, Mike and Claudine, Roger and Julie for a great few days 'en La Continent' We must do this again ?????

Love Phil and Val x

2015 Diary of Events

Wessex Group Events

January 2015

27th Club Night - Natter & Noggin at the Nondescripts Club, Lyndhurst

February 2015

8th Club Run to the Historic village of Wickham in the Meon Valley
Depart Ower Services at 11.30am

24th Club Night - Quiz Night

March 2015

8th Club Run - Awaits

15th 25th Anniversary Duck Race

24th Club Night - Skittles at The Phoenix

April 2015

19th Club Run - Wessex and New Forest Run - details to follow next month

28th Club Night visit to Roach Manufacturing - Awaits confirmation

May 2015

10th Club Run - Awaits details

26th Club Night - Away night venue awaits

June 2015

21st Club Run to Longstock Water Gardens

July 2015

19th Club Run - Bucklers Hard and Family Fun Day

August 2015

7th - 9th International Weekend, Three Counties Show Ground, Malvern,

All events are covered in full on the Wessex Tr Register Facebook page and any late updates or cancellations will be published there.

Other events of interest

March 2015

1st MG & Triumph spares day, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire
<http://mgandtriumphsparesday.co.uk>

May 2015

2nd - 4th Donnington Historic Festival
<http://www.donningtonhistoric.com>

10th Basingstoke Festival of Transport

22nd - 24th Spa Classic, Belgium

June 2015

25th - 28th Goodwood Festival of Speed
Festival of Speed

July 2015

24th - 26th Silverstone Classic, Northamptonshire
<http://www.silverstoneclassic.com>

September 2015

11th - 13th Goodwood Revival

Contact Details

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	Tony Alderton	01425 477674



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