



## COTSWOLD VALE TR NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2015

Festive Greetings to all, I thought this opening scene would suit my recent vehicle swap:-



Yes, I have bought a 1974 TR6, USA spec on twin SUs, and to make space in the garage, sold my TR7 to Rob King. Rob has promised to look after OPE777W, and hopes that Carol will now be able to travel in the warmth and comfort that his wife deserves (and keep her hair in place!).

Not only did Rob take possession of a great car, he was ecstatic with the apparel that came with it:-



And Carol will be delighted with her own matching sweatshirt!

Although it is only the middle of the month, there are a number of updates and event reports that require communicating this year, so thanks primarily to Richard Durrant, here are some of them:-

### **NEC Classic Car Show Supplement**

A few pictures to complement Ian Brown's report in the last Newsletter.

First, a couple more of David Gillespie's fantastic TR3 restoration...



...including a mirror image of the underside restored to the same level of perfection...



....and a couple of David finishing off the trim!!



I was promised dire retribution if I published these, so please be aware if I come to harm!

There was a display of race cars which had been driven to success by the late and great Graham Hill...



.....And by popular demand, the section you have all been waiting for.....

**THE AUSTIN SEVENS.....!!**

Just a selection of the cars put on display by the Pre War Austin Seven Club....

A replica of one of the Austin Team cars as driven by Kay Petre..



....an Ulster race car which competes regularly....



A Nippy with a curvy behind.....(? – you could get arrested for saying that!)



...and a well used trials car....



*Richard Durrant*

### **COTSWOLD VALE CHRISTMAS LUNCH - The Fleece 6<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

Well organised as usual by Keith Brown, there was a slightly disappointing attendance of nineteen of the twenty-one members who were expected. Down on the usual number, but Keith put in a tremendous amount of effort, and we all enjoyed our annual pre-Christmas get together.

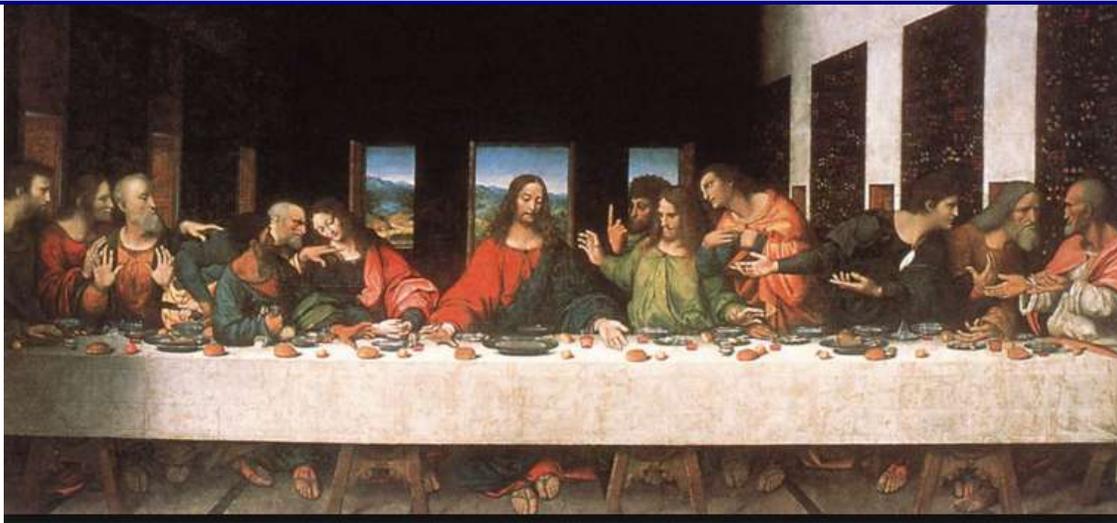
Only one car – Dave and Sally Roberts as usual....!!



Apologies for the poor quality of the indoor pictures – the flash wasn't working at full power....  
.....or maybe the same could be said of the snapper!!



(ed comment – it looks like “the last supper” by Leonardo Da Vinci)



Dave seems to be trying to pinch Nick's cracker, while Nick is wishing that he had washed the gearbox oil off before he came out, and Cat looks to be checking the cricket scores on Linda's phone while Jayne has found something interesting stage right!

Party hats were worn in a variety of ways, but the best was Mike Hill's automatic adoption of the correct wear for a RAF forage/side cap. Unfortunately he centralised it before I could get a photo.....!



Andy C. devoured his pate starter and salmon main course, then had a brief nap while waiting for the rest of us before desserts could be served...!!



Well done Keith.

Merry Christmas everyone and our best wishes for a happy and peaceful New Year.

See you at Dumbleton Hall!!

*Richard and Meg Durrant*

### **BIRMINGHAM GROUP CHRISTMAS QUIZ - Somers Club 8<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

Around forty avid quizzers attended this prestigious annual event hosted by the Birmingham Group at the Somers Club in Halesowen.



Cotswold Vale fielded ten intellectuals – Cat, Dave Lees, Dave and Linda Gillespie, Dave and Sally Roberts, Rob and Carol King and Richard and Meg Durrant.

As the maximum number in a team was to be six – which was widely ignored – we decided to split into two teams, The Appleknockers as a tribute to Colin, and the Appleknackers. As we had four ladies and six blokes the split couldn't be achieved equally, so a bloke had to join the Appleknockers and will therefore remain anonymous (clue – think feline!).....Even though we were all sitting at the same table there was of course no question of collusion, so it was purely coincidental that both teams ended up with the same score within one point and in fourth equal place from the top or the bottom.

There weren't many disagreements about answers, but as Dave Gibson had spent hours compiling the questions with reference to his Wonder Book of Knowledge, these were allowed to be passed over.

To give you a brief respite from my verbal diarrhoea, here are a few pictures limited to Dave and Dave, as the camera battery then expired....!

Intellectuals at work...



Interlopers from an inferior team being told to go away – or being informed by David, drawing on his vast knowledge of engineering principles (and ales), that you unscrew the cap of the bottle anti-clockwise to get at the contents.....



This information was obviously of great interest to Mr Bean (now all better after his op) and Richard.

Post interval refreshments.....



.....Dave Gibson then announced the Grand Raffle, run in an original way which saved a lot of time and may be of interest to Keith.

Instead of winning ticket holders being allowed to select a prize of their liking, all of the prizes were parcelled and individually labelled with a cloakroom ticket. The ticket holder then drew the other half of a cloakroom ticket and took the appropriate parcel.

Unfortunately Laura sold tickets from more than one book, so the first raffle ticket drawn was held by two people!! After a short scuffle, Dave lees prevailed over the small lady who had an identical number, and returned to our base with his parcel.

This seemed to start the pattern for the remainder of the draw, as Cotswold Vale won around half of the forty or so prizes, going some way to make up for not winning the quiz.....

Dave Lees	4
Gillespies	5
Roberts	5
Kings	5
Durrants	1
Cat	0

(Durrants 2 really, but Meg wouldn't let me keep it)

Linda won a suggestive T-shirt, but wouldn't put it on so I couldn't take a picture, Meg won a chocolate fondue set, but we didn't turn it on as we were busy trying to empty Dave Lees' tin of chocolates, and Rob found a good use for the tea towel he won. We haven't negotiated a deal yet to persuade me not to forward the following picture to Immigration Services....



(ed comment, goes very nicely with a grey sweatshirt!)

Thanks to Birmingham Group for hosting another splendid evening. (Rumour has it the ex Birmingham GL made an appearance in order to promote his new line in Triumph/TR embossed fashion items, now available on ebay!)

*Richard Durrant*

And the official results have just been released by the adjudicators in Birmingham (Dave Gibson):-

Finally the e-mail you have waited all year for, ish. David has given me the results from his fiendish quiz the brave amongst us enjoyed on Tuesday night. So, drum roll please, the results are as follows:-

- 1st. Saga Louts - 48
- 2nd. Team 710 - 39
- 3rd. Old Mother Riley - 37
- 4th. Apple Knockers - 34
- 5th. Apple Knockers Tribute -- 31
- 6th. And In Second Place - 28

7th= Chris / Chris - 18

7th= Staffordshire Bulls - 18

So bet you can't wait for 1st meeting of 2016 and the annual highlight that is TR Register Birmingham AGM. See you post party on Tuesday 12th January next year.

*Mark Owen*

**DECEMBER 2015 CAPTION COMPETITION - SUBMITTED BY DAVID GILLESPIE:-**



Entries must be in by 25<sup>th</sup> December, written on the back of a £20 note, sent to the editor!

**NOVEMBER PHOTOGRAPH COMPETITION**

I am pleased to announce that the winner of last month's competition was – me!

Whoopie, I get my £20 note back after hours of research, scouring the internet and reference books, checking archives and museums, and my old Thunderbirds collection – so here is the answer to the steering wheel question:-



This competition was a fab one, and I look forward to receiving all entrants to the December festive caption competition as above.....

**TECHNICAL SECTION**

Looks like Brian Wiggins has managed to keep Keith Brown away from his car this month, although Keith has been busy with his own developments on his 4A, not to mention CVTR business.....

Maybe no one has had any problems, or just that they don't want to own up to anything that may expose them to one of next year's prestigious trophies – anyway, nothing this month to report on the technical front!

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

This is what the Christmas 1990 edition of "Social Scene" brought to CVTR members in TR Action 86 –  
**THE LIKELY LADS**

Yes it really was 25 years ago. Some things never change, John may have moved on to other stuff but he still has a TR on the road. Andy looks just the same, that was his favourite jacket at the time and I have no idea if it survives, but what does survive is his white TR4, languishing in his garage awaiting resurrection.....

### COTSWOLD VALE

#### John Gibbons

What a good year it has been for our dear old Triumph TRs. The weather has been delightful, making almost every open air event we attended a pleasure. The International Weekend was an improvement on Harrogate, even though I hold the view that we should pursue more up-market venues that create a more dynamic atmosphere. I hope the road works on the M6 will be finished for next year's event. Three hours to do seventy five miles is no joke. You have my sympathy all you South East M25 commuter members.

Our tenth Birthday celebrations have been a fair success. I would like to thank all members for attending the skittles evening and anniversary drink.

A special thank you should go to Andy Canning, Terry and Fran and Keith Bambury for their help and support. Let us hope the next ten years will be as enjoyable and our TRs will still be able to find 4 star petrol, even though it may cost us £10 a gallon!

Just so our members can identify the Group Leader after ten years of diplomacy and power steering, I enclose a photograph of the Likely Lads, me on the left, Andy Canning on the right. Both of us were responsible for setting up the Group (for our sins) when we were younger and very innocent. Merry Christmas to all our many friends and members.



Ten years of the "Likely Lads"

Just reading this again, The IWE was an improvement on Harrogate, roadworks on the M6, price of petrol etc, some things never change, and whatever happened to "global warming" if the weather in 1990 was delightful, good job we don't live in Cumbria....

### FUTURE EVENTS:-



And when you are fed up of Turkey and need some fresh air, Brian Wiggins has reminded me of the following event (just how does that man fit everything in???):-

### 26<sup>th</sup> December - Boxing Day Classic Car Meetings & Events.

Name: South Midlands Classic Car Meet

Address: Stratford Armouries Museum, Gospel Oak Lane, Stratford Upon Avon, CV37 0JA (turn at Armouries public house off the A3400)

Region: Warwickshire

Venue: Stratford Armouries Museum, Gospel Oak Lane, Stratford Upon Avon, CV37 0JA (turn at Armouries public house off the A3400)

Date: 26-Dec-2015

Telephone: [01789 242468](tel:01789242468)

### January 20<sup>th</sup> - CVTR "committee" meeting at The Fleece.

The Fleece in the "dugout", starting at 7.00pm.

This is the meeting where we attempt to pull together a diary of events for 2016, plus gather any ideas for trips etc throughout the year.

## New Years Annual Awards Dinner to be held at Dumbleton Hall on January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016

Bob Heppell is organising this popular event. A menu is available. This year the cost is £25 per head (£1 cheaper than last year). Cheques should be made payable to R Heppell. Please book your rooms with Dumbleton Hall and quote Cotswold Vale event.

Polish off your best bib and tucker!

**Cotswold Vale TR Club January 23 2016**

**Meal time 6.30 for 7.00 PM**

@  
Dumbleton Hall

Menu

**Starter**

Cream of butternut Squash, Sage Belgnets.....

Ham Hock & Guinea Fowl Terrine.....

Pearls of Melon, Fruits & orange Sabayon.....

**Main**

Roast Pave of Lamb, Flageolet Puree & Balsamic Glaze.....

Make on a bed of Warm Tomatoes with Charizo Crumb & Herb Oil.....

Pan Fried Chicken Supreme with Haggis Farce & Whiskey Cream.....

Mushroom Guinness & Root Vegetable Casserole with Cream Potato.....

**Dessert**

Lemon Tart with Berry Compote.....

Apple and Sultana Sponge, Anglaise Sauce.....

Sunken Chocolate Cake with Clotted Cream.....

Cheese and Biscuit Selection.....

*Freshly Brewed Tea or Coffee with Dinner mints*

Name.....Tel number.....

Name.....Tel Number.....

Meal price is £25.00 per person rooms @ special price £85.00 Double Quote Cotswold vale when  
Booking Dumbleton Hall Tel Number 01386 881240 Post Code WR11 7TS Book Rooms Direct

Please Make Cheques Payable to R Heppell ( Meal Only )

Contact details for Bob Heppell are [robert.heppell@btinternet.com](mailto:robert.heppell@btinternet.com) or phone 01386 860499

At this point in time the numbers are down on what we have come to expect, PLEASE let Bob know if you intend to attend phone Bob Heppell on 01386 860499 (but you may be too late.....)

**January 27th - CVTR meeting at The Fleece.**

This will be the first chance to review the 2016 diary of events.

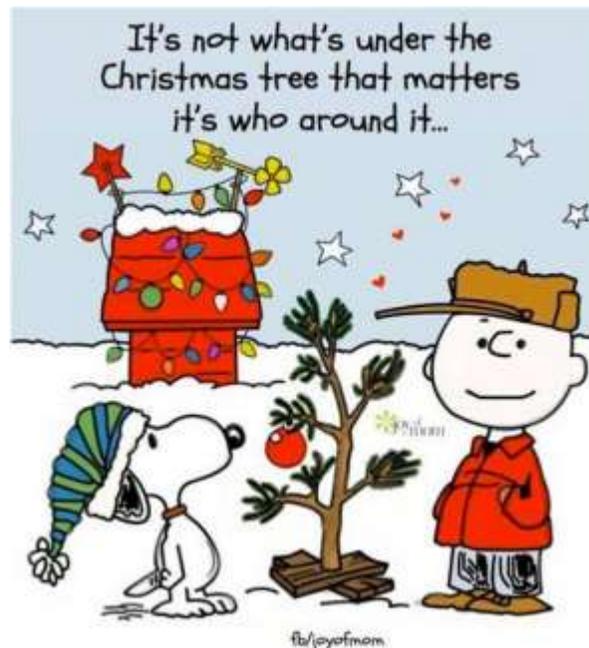
**February 8th - Sunday lunch. TBA**

**February 24th - CVTR meeting at The Fleece.**

This meeting will also cover our postponed AGM and we will hopefully be electing our new Group Leader. Please give some thought as to who you would like in this role or even better volunteer yourself. There will be lots of support to our new GL from the existing team, none of whom wish to be in the GL role.....

It would be great to think someone below 60 years of age would pick up the baton and take the club onwards, not to mention lowering the average age of those well past their sell by date, and who may be running hard to stay still!

**SUPPLEMENT**



Well, that's it for another year, of course many of us are still thinking about Colin and Lesley Boother and how much we are missing his cheery smile and positive outlook. Our CVTR best wishes to Lesley and the family.

Next year is a fresh start for the group, and those of us involved will be working just as hard as ever to provide events and opportunities to get the cars out and about to uphold the "marque TR" amongst their peers, and to continue to create more enjoyment and inclusion for not only CVTR members and their families, but also the wider TR fraternity and other classic owners. The more of you who wish to join in with anything and help continue to make the club what it is (and even improve it), the merrier!

*Andrew Racey, Ian Brown and Richard Durrant*