

# The TRunnion

TR Register Lea Valley Group

2014 Issue 4 (Jul/Aug)

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## 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](http://www.tr-register.co.uk)

TR Forum: [www.tr-register.co.uk/forums](http://www.tr-register.co.uk/forums)

LVG: [www.groups.tr-register.co.uk/lea-valley](http://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](mailto:bjmole1-trlvg@yahoo.co.uk).

## 2014 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 that I hear about, as well as 'official' LVG events.

However, we are promoting the following

# BIG-4

events which we hope will be supported by as many LVG members as possible, so please make a note of these dates in your diary.

**May.11: LVG "Baldock-Broom-Bury Tour" ✓**

**Jun.22: STMD (Brooklands) ✓**

**Sep.7: LVG "The King's Run Tour"**

**Sep.21: Kop Hillclimb**

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## Other Events

### 2014

Jul.25: Silverstone Classic

Jul.26: Silverstone Classic

Jul.27: Silverstone Classic

Jul.28: TSSC Meeting - The Rising Sun, Halls Green, Weston

**Aug.3: LVG Monthly Lunchtime Meeting**

Aug.7: 2nd RNLI Vintage & Classic Car Event (The 2nd Pirton Vintage & Classic Charity Car Event, with all proceeds going to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, will be held at the Recreation Ground in Pirton, Herts on Thursday 7 August 2014).

Aug.8: TRR IWE Harrogate (Paul: Scenic route/group run on Friday stopping for lunch halfway? I don't think we need any other events in August because of holidays!!!)

Aug.9: TRR IWE Harrogate

Aug.10: TRR IWE Harrogate

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Aug.16: LVG Committee Meeting  
Aug.17: Hampshire Classic Motor Show,  
Breamore Countryside Museum, Nr.  
Fordingbridge, Hants  
& de Havilland International Moth Rally,  
Woburn  
**Aug.20: LVG Mid-monthly Evening Meeting**  
Aug.22: Car Fest South, Laverstoke Park Farm,  
Basingstoke, Hants  
Aug.23: Car Fest South, Laverstoke Park Farm,  
Basingstoke, Hants  
Aug.24: Car Fest South, Laverstoke Park Farm,  
Basingstoke, Hants  
& Annual Knebworth Classic Motor Show  
& Blenheim  
& Little Gransden Air & Classic Car  
Show  
Aug.25: Annual Knebworth Classic Motor Show  
& Brill Show  
& TSSC Meeting - The Rising Sun, Halls  
Green, Weston  
Sep.6: Brighton Speed Trials  
**Sep.7: LVG Monthly Lunchtime Meeting  
& LVG 'The King's Run Tour' [BIG-4]** -  
Chris & Pat Glasbey's tour around the  
Anglia region  
Sep.12: Goodwood Revival  
Sep.13: Goodwood Revival  
Sep.14: Goodwood Revival  
**Sep.17: LVG Mid-monthly Evening Meeting**  
Sep.19: CACCC 'Falling Down Tour'  
Sep.20: Kop Hillclimb  
& CACCC 'Falling Down Tour'  
**Sep.21: Kop Hillclimb [BIG-4]**  
(Group run. Meet up with Chiltern Group  
who usually have stand)  
& CACCC 'Falling Down Tour'  
Sep.22: TSSC Meeting - The Rising Sun, Halls  
Green, Weston  
Sep.28: Sywell Pistons and Props  
**Oct.5: LVG Monthly Lunchtime Meeting**  
Oct.11: Nostalgia Forum Motor Sport Film Show,  
Albury, Herts.  
Oct.12: Westonbirt Arboretum. Group run/scenic  
route to see the autumn colours?  
Oct.26: Restoration Show, Stoneleigh  
Oct.27: TSSC Meeting - The Rising Sun, Halls  
Green, Weston

**Nov.2: LVG Monthly Lunchtime Meeting**  
Nov.15: LVG Committee Meeting  
Nov.24: TSSC Meeting - The Rising Sun, Halls  
Green, Weston  
**Dec.7: LVG Monthly Lunchtime Meeting/AGM**  
Dec.22: TSSC Meeting - The Rising Sun, Halls  
Green, Weston

### 2015

**Jan.4: LVG Monthly Lunchtime Meeting**  
**Feb.1: LVG Monthly Lunchtime Meeting**

*This calendar will be regularly updated in  
TRunnion and also on the website, so please  
check there for latest information.*

## EDITORIAL

Having waited until the last minute for input for this TRunnion, I am now rushing to get it out in time to ensure that everyone is aware of the deadlines for entering The King's Run. Doubtless the lack of contributions from the membership at large is due to the very busy event diary recently. As well as the monthly meetings and the events I have written about below, I have been to STMD at Brooklands, Tibbles Tour and SBMC's Kimbolton Fayre. We will be missing the IWE at Harrogate and our final BIG-4 event at Kop Hill, but are looking forward to The King's Run and the Falling Down Tour. I would love to receive reports and/or photos from any events to save writing them all up for TRunnion myself - otherwise I might as well write a blog and just post a link!



**BrianC**

*In case you missed my appeal in previous issues of TRunnion 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*

## Group Leader's Report – 15th July 2014

I wonder how many Social Scene reports have started with the words "Doesn't time fly". Even as I write this I am risking the wrath of the magazine officials for leaving it to the very last minute to write this report. Those good-natured folk among you would probably immediately think that the reason might be that I want the contents of the report to be as up to date and topical as possible, and you are of course right. I can tell you that seeing Germany / Brazil / Netherlands / Argentina

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(delete as applicable) win the World Cup has been the main reason I have not been able to fix my suspension this month. Just kidding, Germany of course won the World Cup and my suspension is fixed! Anyway, enough excuses and on with the report.

June saw the second of our LVG BIG-4 events of the year with a fantastic day at Brooklands, courtesy of the Standard Triumph Marque Day. Whilst this is obviously not organised by ourselves, we included it in our calendar this year as previous STMDs have proven truly excellent, especially at Duxford. This was the first time I have been to Brooklands when the museum part has actually been open and what a great place it is. I had no idea they had so much aviation history there. If you haven't been, you should have come!

Bearing our brand new banner, we claimed one corner of the car park as our own and set up camp. The usual suspects spent a splendid day viewing historical and classic cars of importance and aeroplanes that you can climb inside and see for yourself "what it was like". One great feature of the day was the hill climb, which whilst only a short hill, provides a euphoria of days gone by. I did not do it myself as my tacho was AWOL and I was afraid I might thrash the engine a few RPM too far. With hindsight, and in fact as soon as it started, I wish I had done it. If I get another chance, I will.



STMD was followed by a great turn out at Stockwood Park. This is a popular event in the group, one I unfortunately could not attend myself but I am quite sure we will have it as part of the BIG-4 next year.

Our next event is the much awaited King's Run, which, if you have not yet entered, I strongly encourage you to do so. I know places are going and are limited but at the time of writing there are still a few left. This promises to be a great day and one the group can really be proud of. I already know Chris and Pat Glasbey have a number of interesting "features" in store. Please contact Chris and / or Pat directly for this event at [thekingsrun.tr@btinternet.com](mailto:thekingsrun.tr@btinternet.com) or on 01223 833700.

In the words of the great WD, that's all folks!!



*Julian Hensman*

*[A copy of this report will also appear in TRaction #276 Social Scene]*

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## **CACCC Springing Up Tour**

The 10th Springing Up Tour organised by the Carpenters Arms Classic Car Club was based at a hotel in Bradford-on-Avon and as has become customary, a number of us went down a day early. This allowed a relaxed meal together at a local hostelry on Friday evening and Saturday to explore the area at will. We chose to walk into the town and along the river and canal which provided a fine opportunity to join the crowds enjoying the first sunny day for months. After a lengthy walk, involving dodging the cyclists speeding along the towpath, we reluctantly took refuge in a canal-side pub before returning to our hotel for the customary tour dinner and raffle.

The first section of the tour on Sunday was rather short and although some members stopped to explore the picturesque village of Lacock, we continued on the next section to the Kennet and Avon Canal Museum at Devizes. Alas, this was closed due to lack of volunteers to man it, so once



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more into the TR and off on section 3 to visit the Atwell-Wilson Motor Museum at Calne. This is a small museum but with over 100 cars and motorcycles, plus a huge amount of automobilia including a 1930s style garage. Well worth a visit and I could have spent much longer there.

Section 4 took us past the Avebury Ring. This was true TRippersville and parking would have been horrendous (and probably very expensive for a short visit), but fortunately we were able to see quite a lot from the car as we drove as slowly as possible. As this was a much longer section we stopped at what looked like a typical village pub at Aston Tirrold. Although we didn't plan to eat, this was just as well as it turned out that 'The Chequers' is better known as The Sweet Olive Restaurant run by two Frenchmen (chef Olivier Bouet and his business partner Stephane Brun - I guess that may mean something to addicts of food-oriented TV programmes) and featured in many food guides, so with a corresponding tariff. Nevertheless, the peanuts were affordable, the beer was excellent and we enjoyed watching village life pass by as we sat in the garden. 'Village life' included an impressively loud supercar which we could hear being tuned up nearby for a while before it passed by - I've no idea what it was, other than it had a V8 and a big wing on the back and whilst I prefer a TR, I'm sure my son would love one. Quite a contrast to tour regular Alf's Mini-Cooper which came past shortly afterwards, much to the amusement of a some of the pub clientele. I had to explain that Alf's Cooper is a genuine ex-Works car and extremely difficult to drive at low speeds, so that whilst it sounded as though it was only running on a couple of cylinders, once out of the village it would be uncatchable by most modern cars as 90 year-old Alf still drives it like he stole it!

As a local cycling and walking charity event was about to start we decided to resume our own tour, onwards via the North Wessex Downs, Wallingford and the Chilterns to the Chinnor & Princes Risborough Railway (The Icknield Line) at Chinnor. We were just in time to have a look around and see the last train of the day arrive and depart before leaving ourselves to make our own route back to the Carpenters Arms at Harpenden.

Whilst this was probably no problem for most people on the tour as this is local territory for them, it was less familiar to us. It's lucky that Lynda is good at map-reading as we have never succumbed to installing a satnav, so we made it without getting lost.



*[A few photos taken on arrival at Calne - and yes, the camper van was on the tour! Can anyone identify this very rare beast? I believe there are only two or three still on the road.]*

## **SBMC Northern Gambol Tour**

Whilst not TR (or even a specifically classic car) events, I think a brief outline of tours organised by other clubs, especially in different areas, may encourage a few more of our members to try something a little more challenging than a Sunday drive. Since getting my TR3A back on the road in 2007 we have done a number of Sporting Bears tours in East Anglia, Wales and Cumbria/Scottish Borders. This one was based at The Fat Lamb, Ravenstonedale and started with the usual excellent buffet on Friday evening.

Saturday's route took us into the high Pennines through Cumbria, County Durham, Northumberland and Yorkshire via a mixture of country lanes, rural villages, open highways and glorious sweeping moorland roads. As these events are non-competitive, there is plenty of time to enjoy the scenery, although many of the roads are typical of the classic rally routes of the past and it is tempting to press on occasionally. However, the potholes, cattle-grids and frequent presence of sheep do require some care to avoid damage to car, occupants and livestock. We were especially warned to avoid driving between mother and lambs as a lamb is likely to make a last minute dash back to safety of its mother's side right in front of you.

The morning coffee stop was at the Lord Crewe Arms, Blanchard. This is a 12th Century Abbot's Priory which has recently been re-opened as a country hotel, ideal for the hunting, fishing and golfing but also a very quiet relaxing environment with bags of character and history including the medieval armour and paintings. The coffee and biscuits were well above average too and much needed to set us up for a stroll around the gardens before setting off on the next section.

After a 90 mile morning drive we arrived for lunch at "Locomotion" - the National Railway Museum at Shildon, where an excellent buffet lunch was provided in the main hall. I've never managed to visit the NRM at York, so really enjoyed the wide-ranging display of very early prototype locomotives through to the Advanced Passenger Train, and rolling stock from industrial wagons to Royal Train carriages.

Whilst some opted for a quick route home via the A1(M) and A66, we enjoyed the full route, stopping at Cross Lanes Organic Farm Shop for the afternoon tea and cake stop, before the final section over the fell tops to complete a very full day of driving, totalling 160 miles.

The aim of these tours is to enjoy driving our cars and to raise money for children's charities, so the day was rounded off by a Dinner and Casino/Auction night. A full day in a sidescreen TR had taken its toll on us, and apart from Blackjack and Roulette, we hadn't the faintest idea of the rules of the other gambling games so settled for a drink and a relatively early night.

Sunday's route was very different and slightly more relaxing, taking us down through the Trough of Bowland and the Royal Forest into what Grizzly Bear refers to as 'The Badlands' (i.e. Lancashire). The destination was the huge Barton Grange Garden Centre at Garstang. Whilst this was interesting to look around, it was clearly priced to suit the Premier League footballers prolific in this area. However, the reason for this choice of venue was to catch a traditional Wide Boat for a cruise up the Lancaster canal. After a very enjoyable hour and a half cruise with lunch served on board, we were ferried back to our cars at the garden centre on a Cumbria Classics split-cab double-decker called Peter (a 1955 AEC Regent for the public transport anoraks in the group) which brought back memories of the school buses of my youth - although passenger behaviour was better!

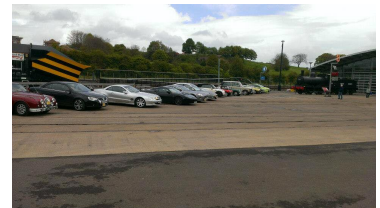
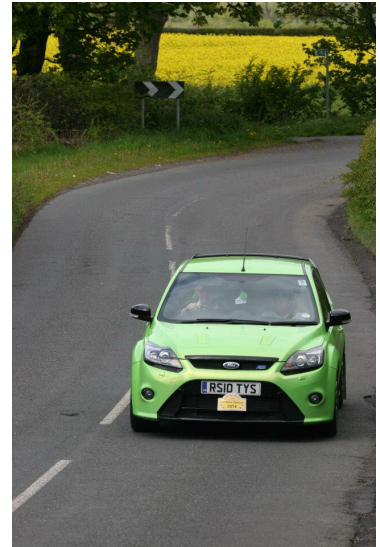
Although this was the official end of the tour, with some leaving for home, some of us that were staying on for an additional night took the optional final scenic section back to the Fat Lamb to complete another very full day of driving in time to meet up for an informal final meal.

As with the majority of classic car tours, the aim is to enjoy driving our cars as they were intended and to raise money for charity. The final total for this one is around £1700 which will go to Jigsaw – The Eden Valley Children's Hospice.

As you can see from the small selection of photos below, Sporting Bears tours include a very wide range of 'sporting' machinery, including many far more exotic and powerful than our humble TR, but I always consider it a challenge and major result if we complete the event without too much falling off or breaking - either the car or occupants!



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[Photos from Fat Lamb Facebook page]