



ROLLS-ROYCE  
ENTHUSIASTS' CLUB  
NORTH EASTERN SECTION  
NEWSLETTER  
MAY/JUNE 2016

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The *Noggin and Natter evenings* on the first Wednesday of each month are now taking place at the **Crathorne Arms, Crathorne, TS15 0BA**, just off the A19 near Yarm. A busy pub, but within easy reach of most of us. Bar food is available for those who want it. It is a very select gathering at present, so why not come along and swell the numbers!

The third Wednesday evening meetings involve much lively talk and laughter at **The Old Mill, Metal Bridge, Coxhoe, DH6 5NX**.

A hardcore of attendees has developed, but new faces are always welcome. These meetings are definitely not men only! Just turn up at about 7.30pm, there is no need to book. Order food and drink at the bar and ask where we are - they usually know!

### Events for 2016

<b>Monday 16 May</b>	Track day Middlesbrough Kart Track - JDC
<b>Wednesday 18 May</b>	The Mill, Metal Bridge, Coxhoe
<b>Sunday 22 May</b>	Stokesley picnic, Busby Hall - RM
<b>Sunday 5 June</b>	Picnic at Thorp Perrow Arboretum - JC
<b>Wednesday 15 June</b>	The Old Mill, Metal Bridge, Coxhoe
<b>Fri/Sun 24/26 June</b>	National Rally at Burghley House - Club event
<b>Sunday 3 July</b>	MGOC Rally at Tynedale RUFC, Corbridge - MV
<b>Sunday 17 July</b>	NECPWA Rally at Newby Hall
<b>Wednesday 20 July</b>	The Old Mill, Metal Bridge, Coxhoe
<b>Sunday 24 July</b>	Ripon Old Cars at Ripon Racecourse - DIY!
<b>Sat/Sun 6/7 August</b>	North of England Rally at Harewood House - Club event
<b>Sun 14 August</b>	Raby Castle Classic Car show - JDC
<b>Wednesday 17 August</b>	The Old Mill, Metal Bridge, Coxhoe
<b>August (tbc)</b>	Road run/Tanfield Railway/pub meal by Aston Martin works, Beamish - TM
<b>Sunday 11 September</b>	Land Rovers and Lunch - RH
<b>Wednesday 21 September</b>	The Old Mill, Metal Bridge, Coxhoe
<b>Sunday 25 September</b>	NECPWA Beamish Rally at Beamish Museum - BS
<b>Wednesday 19 October</b>	The Old Mill, Metal Bridge, Coxhoe
<b>Sat 11/13 November</b>	NEC Classic Car Show - JC
<b>Wednesday 16 November</b>	The Old Mill, Metal Bridge, Coxhoe
<b>Wed 21 December</b>	Christmas Event at The Old Mill, Coxhoe - RM.

### **Other possible events, details of dates and organisers yet to be confirmed:**

Tan Hill Road Run and meal  
North Yorkshire Railway visit – Joint visit with YS?

### Events for 2017

<b>15 January</b>	AGM at the Allerton Court Hotel - Secretary.
<b>May/October (tbc)</b>	Section weekend somewhere in Northumberland.

### **ADVERTISING RATES**

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### **Front photo:**

Graham Blackburn's 1971 Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow, Chassis No. SRH11777, and Jim Clark's 1997 Bentley LWB Turbo R, Chassis No. VCH59894, at the Wensleydale Creamery, before going on to Simonstone Hall.





# ROLLS-ROYCE ENTHUSIASTS' CLUB

## NORTH EASTERN SECTION NEWSLETTER MAY/JUNE 2016

### Roger's Ramblings

The 1955 Earls Court Motor Show saw the first time Japanese cars were exhibited in the UK, the makes Hino and Honda.

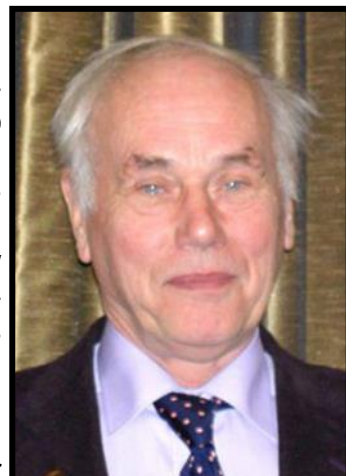
The motoring press at the time were dismissive of their efforts, rubbish, no style etc.

How times change, 40% of the RREC members are now overseas, and that number is rising, while the UK membership falling. How many years before we have an overseas venue for the RREC AGM? An interesting thought.

My P11 is now restored to full health after troubles with the cylinder head gasket (twice), and is looking forward to an active summer. According to the Autocar road test, my car has an almost identical performance to the 1955 Cloud I (top speed, acceleration and braking), so it seems not much happened in the 20 years between them. I guess Rolls-Royce were distracted by troubles over the water!

Regards

**Roger**



### Contact point comments

The season kicked off with our first section event of the year on 13th March. This was a road run and meal at Simonstone Hall, near Hawes, which was enjoyed by the 17 in attendance, and is reported more fully elsewhere in the Newsletter.

I attended the RREC annual conference this year with Roger Hall and we were billeted for the weekend at the Marriott Hotel, Northampton. This hotel is just to the east of the M1 on the road into Northampton and both food and accommodation were excellent.

The Hunt House is about 12 miles to the West from the hotel and this was my first and fascinating attendance at the facility. Business commenced with the AGM followed by the Conference, and I expect that these will both be fully reported in the Bulletin in due course.

I thought the AGM was handled well, in a business-like and professional manner, and it was clear that the relationship between the Sir Henry Royce Memorial Foundation and the RREC is very much more positive than perhaps it has been in the recent past. However, it also became clear that the issues of governance had not been





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handled in the year as well as they might have been. Thus, the AGM accepted a proposal from the outgoing chairman, Duncan Feetham, that he stand down from the RREC Board in order to accommodate the appointment of two others and thereby avoid the need to run another election process. Questions were also raised about a severance payment and confidentiality agreement with a former RREC employee and the appointment process relating to a current employee. All matters raised were dealt with to the satisfaction of the delegates present.

The Conference was a very much more relaxed affair, ably chaired by Ted Meacham, Central Southern Section Secretary. The conference subjects for discussion had been previously circulated to Sections to seek their views, together with a paper setting out some proposals to try to increase membership, and reduce RREC membership loss rates. There was considerable agreement in Section opinions about the matters discussed, judging from the comments made by delegates.

The highlights for me were first, a membership presentation and secondly an excellent presentation from Andrew Ball, Global Corporate Communications Manager, Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Ltd.

The membership presentation probably raised more questions than it answered but drew out that there are significantly more owners of Bentley motor cars about than there are owners of Rolls-Royce motor cars. This led to some discussion about the incorporation of the Bentley name into the club name. I reported the comments of a member of our Section Committee, who in recognising that the club was a staid organisation, suggested that more radical solutions to go forward successfully than tinkering with the name, would be required.

A specific question asked was whether the £30.00 joining fee should be scrapped, and there was a lot of vocal opinion that it should be scrapped, not least because of the concessions made to those joining at the NEC event in Birmingham.

Andrew Ball had arranged that a Rolls-Royce Dawn was available for delegates to examine. This handsome new soft top is described as the most luxurious convertible in the world and has won the prestigious "Luxury car of the year award". The bright orange upholstery of the vehicle was not to my liking, but the real surprise for me was how limited the legroom was for back seat occupants.

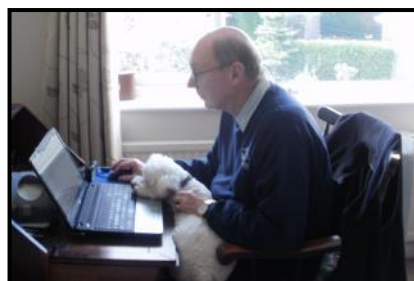
Finally, the other issue which did strike me was the excellent spoken English from all the continental delegates that I had occasion to meet and speak to. I would be surprised if their linguistic skills could be matched by the delegates from this side of the channel, but then, I guess that English is still the international language of the world! **(Pas si vous êtes Français! Ed)**

*Rod*

## Newsletter Editor's comments

The eagle eyed amongst you will have noticed that Allan Fishburn's barbeque has been cancelled. This is because Allan's conservatory is currently a garage, and space will not be available. This has freed up the date for members to attend the Ripon Old Cars event at Ripon Racecourse, if interested. Some Yorkshire Section members attend, but there is no Club stand. The Jaguar Drivers' Club usually attend en masse, and if you would like to join in, copy and paste <http://www.riponclassiccargathering.org/> into your browser for more details.

The Club is holding a seminar on 21st August for non-members, in order to try to





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persuade them to join. It seems to be aimed at both adults and teenagers. You will find more details below on page 12.

Here is a slightly edited version of an article that I found in the Daily Telegraph, Motoring Section recently: Campaign Groups say that the £50m pothole fund falls significantly short of what is required to repair local roads, and that, in fact, councils need 230 times more than the £50 million pledged by Government.

That is according to the Local Government Association, which described the first instalment of the Government's Pothole Action Fund as merely "a step in the right direction". In total, the LGA says the backlog in maintenance required to bring our roads up to a satisfactory standard, amounts to a little under *an eye watering* £12 billion, adding that for the average authority to bring its roads up to "reasonable condition" is £69 million. *(Or about a tenth of the amount given in aid to one third world country, which then squandered it.)*

*It is understood that* the Government featured the five-year, £250 million Pothole Action Fund in last month's Budget, and *it appears* that the £50m is an initial instalment to pay for the repair of one million potholes. Patrick McLoughlin, the Transport Secretary, said the money to repair potholes formed part of a £6.1 billion investment for local road maintenance over the next five years.

However, councillor Martin Tett, LGA Transport spokesman, said that the condition of our roads is only going to get worse, unless we address it as a national priority, and that the Government's own traffic projections predict a potential increase in traffic of up to 55 per cent by 2040. *(If that is true the roads are going to be so crowded, and we will all be driving so slowly, we shall not need to bother with the potholes. I shall be 97 in 2040, so, happily, will not see it.)*

Go to: [www.potholes.co.uk](http://www.potholes.co.uk), which gives information about how to report potholes, or how to claim if your car has been damaged by one. David Gerrans, Potholes.co.uk managing director, said that any money that central Government puts towards road maintenance was welcomed, but £50 million was not going to allow local authorities to carry out the permanent fix that was needed.

*It seems that there is a huge backlog that will take years to make good, unless much more money is available to carry out the work.*

*Consequently it will continue to be us, the drivers who use the road network, who will pay for it, when we have to pay for the repairs to our cars.*

*Maybe I am wrong, it's not unusual, but surely many of the potholes are caused by the even heavier heavy goods vehicles now permitted on our roads by the EU that does not have to worry about the damage they cause.*

**(My thanks to the Daily Telegraph Motoring Section, from whom I stole this article, although it is not verbatim, and there are bits added by me, mainly in italics!)**

On Friday 14th April the Flying Scotsman Rally came through our area with a driving test at the Croft Circuit. Competitors were timed to drive round the circuit negotiating cones on the way. Jackie and I were observing a simple chicane of three cones, almost at the end of the pit straight, so cars were arriving at some speed! Out of over 100 entrants, only two got it wrong. This is north eastern Club member, Keith Whickham, in his 20hp roadster.

*Martin*





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## Sandy Relph

For those who have not heard, I am very sorry to have to report that Sandy Relph, passed away on 23rd March. The funeral was held at St Bernadette's RC Church, Nunthorpe, on Friday 1st April, and Jackie and I attended, representing the section. Sandy was obviously extremely well liked and respected, and there was standing room only in the church with probably over 200 present. It was the first time that Jackie or I had known a priest to break down while giving his homily. Sandy and Mike were regular attendees at section events over many years, and especially section weekends, when Sandy would often entertain us with a song after dinner. She will be missed.



## Welfare

I understand that Grahame McDonald has had an operation for a hernia. This was in March, so I hope that he is well on the mend by now. He also tells me that owing to his mobility problems, he was asked to take a driving test before being issued with a new licence after his 70th birthday, and that he passed this with flying colours. He assured me that it had nothing to do with the examiner being impressed because he was conducting the test for the first time ever in a Rolls-Royce!

## Were we have been:-

### Lunch at Simonstone Hall

Sunday, 13th March was a warm bright sunny day for the first event of this year. This was a road run to Simonstone Hall close to Hawes in Wensleydale and the location where Jeremy Clarkson committed the indiscretion that led to the termination of his employment with the BBC.



The plan was to meet in the station car park in Hawes, where there is a café and museum, however, the café did not open for the start of its season until the Monday morning and a late change of plan led to a decision to seek further amusement at the Wensleydale Creamery.



The museum staff were most helpful in indicating that they would redirect anyone else turning up wearing a tie advising that their usual clientele – walkers – did not wear ties.

The cheese factory offers free samples of a very wide range of cheeses which most of the party sampled

leading to some buying more cheese than they would on their supermarket shop.

There were 17 in our party but only four cars of the marque, comprising a 2001 Bentley Arnage, a 1997 Bentley Turbo R, a 1971 Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow, (see front cover) and a



1934 Phantom II. We were served an excellent meal in a private dining room at a very reasonable price, which met the first test of quality as defined by our Section President – hot plates. This was a long road run for most present, but with excellent food and good company, it was an outing enjoyed by all who attended.

## Drive It Day

Unfortunately, I will be driving to Scotland on 24th April, so any report will have to wait until the next newsletter. At the time of writing all I can say for certain is that Roger Hall was booked to go in his PII, as was Nick Clark in his 20hp, Peter Kitching in his 25/30, and Graham Blackburn in his Silver Shadow.

## Where we are going:-

Busby Hall Picnic, Carlton in

Cleveland, near Stokesley – Sunday 22 May

This was fully reported on in the last newsletter. It is a Yorkshire Section event to which we have been invited, so, please complete the form at the end of this newsletter, and return it to Rod, asap, if you would like to attend.

## Picnic at Thorp Perrow Arboretum – 5 June

This is the last call for the visit to the arboretum not far from Bedale. We can either have a picnic in the grounds or visit their café, and have been offered a discounted entrance fee, provided at least ten people are present. This will give full access to the site, including a birds of prey demonstration.

There is ample parking, and the visit should be a leisurely and enjoyable experience.

Fill in the booking form on page 16 and return it to Jim Clark as soon as possible, as he will need to know numbers.

## MGOC Classic Vehicle Rally, Tynedale Park –

Sunday 3rd July

At the time of writing there has not been a good response to this event. A stand has been booked, as in previous years, and if you would like to attend, please complete the booking form at the end of this newsletter and return it to me by the end of May. Alternatively you can book online by copying the address below into your browser:-

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/classics-in-corbridge-2016-tickets-21726270861>



If you do book online, it would be helpful if you could let me know, in order that I can keep an eye on numbers attending.

## Ripon Old Cars – Sunday 24 July

As mentioned above, enter the following address into your browser for information and a booking form. <http://www.riponclassiccargathering.org/>

## North of England Rally – Sunday 7th August

This is the second reminder for you to book for the major event in your Section calendar; the North of England Rally at Harewood House, near Harrogate.

It will again be held in the beautiful grounds of Harewood House where we are allowed to park in front of the magnificent stately home, as usual.

The Rally provides many pleasures from the initial entrance down the impressive tree lined drive, to the unique opportunity to study, at close quarters, a range of Club cars, which are rarely seen elsewhere. There will be the Club shop, a variety of food and refreshments, plus a very interesting house and gardens to visit. Combine this with the delight of meeting old and new friends, and you have the recipe for a perfect day. Many members make a full weekend of it, and book in at the Majestic Hotel in Harrogate. The food is excellent and the staff very friendly. On the Saturday there will be an interesting drive of approximately 40 miles through the stunning Yorkshire countryside, followed in the evening by a Grand Gala Dinner in the ballroom of the hotel, including a drinks reception and entertainment by “My Favourite Things” The UK’s No 1 vintage song and dance act.

Further details and a booking form are on pages 20/21/23 below.

Don’t delay - book today!

**Jeff Dennis**

## Raby Castle Classic Car Show – Sunday 14th August

This is an annual Mark Woodward event, attended by Area 11 of the Jaguar Drivers’ Club, and friends. Members of the RREC, North Eastern Section have been invited to join the Jaguars on their stand, as in previous years. As usual with the Mark Woodward events, there are many cars on display, together with an array of different trade stands. Of course there is also a rather impressive castle nearby! Fill in the booking form, (p22) and send it off to Geoff and Sheila by the 8th of August.



## Land Rovers and Lunch – Sun 11th September

A private visit to 'Twisted, in Thirsk followed by lunch at Byland Abbey.

**T**wisted are world known for modifying and constructing Land Rover Defenders - you will be amazed.

We will have a tour of their factory followed by Buffet lunch at Abbey Inn, Byland, the food last year was excellent.

The car parking is spacious, and the drive there is scenic.

It is hoped to have some other interesting cars joining us.

**Roger**

## Seminar No 382

### **Introduction to the RREC and what makes Rolls-Royce and Bentley Motor Cars so special. Seminar Sunday 21st August 2016**

This is a family and friends seminar, some of you may have young members of your family who you hope will take an interest in your cherished motor car, to take part in events you attend, and even to take charge of your car in later life. We welcome young members of your family from 12 years old to this event, it is held the same day as our open day. Bring along your young family, partners or friends, you will meet friends and browse around and chat, whilst they attend the seminar to receive an introduction to what makes our cars so special, what our club has to offer, showing past events, the history of Rolls-Royce and Bentley, and a tour of our workshop, classroom and engine shop.

Starting at 10.30am, with a Lunch break, the seminar finishes at 3pm. There is no charge for the seminar, there is no charge for lunch for the under 16 year olds.

A wonderful opportunity to get family young members to start young to gain passion for our cars and history, to introduce partners and friends into our interests.

\*\*\*

Contact the Hunt House to book places

Steve Lovatt  
Chief Lecturer

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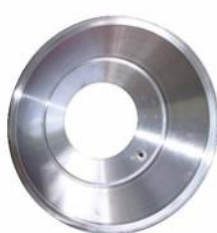
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