



ROLLS-ROYCE ENTHUSIASTS' CLUB

NORTH EASTERN SECTION NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2017



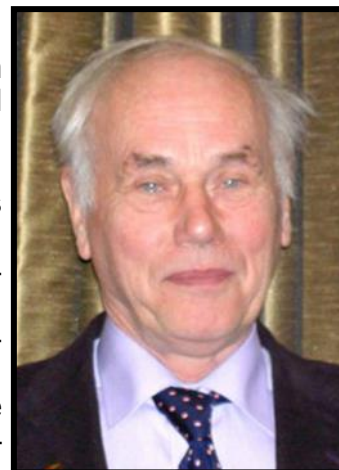
Formally Terry Scott's, of the Yorkshire Section, this 1926 20hp, four door saloon by Park Ward, GUK18, is now owned by Tom Horner and Rachael. The car suffered some ignition problems on its way to Beamish, and Nick Clark is giving the contact points a good going over!

Roger's Ramblings

Many thanks to Martin and Tony for organising our section weekend in Northumberland. I know the hassle involved to achieve the smooth running (which it did) of such an event. Great company and great motoring.

I have done nearly 1500 trouble free miles in the Phantom this year, it has used very little oil (perhaps 2 pints), and no water. It is now time to put it up on blocks and do some light maintenance, namely remove the road wheels and grease the hubs, change the oil and filter and check the chassis lubrication system.

This is a job I have been promising to do for many years, there are, I think, 43 drip plugs on the system, each to pass between 1 and 5 drops/minute.



Continued on page 4

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 2017

11 November	Classic Motor Show, NEC - JC
15 November	The Old Mill, Metal Bridge
Nov/Dec tbc	Possible visit to RAF Leeming
20 December	Christmas Event - RM

The AGM location, date, time, Agenda and supporting papers will be forwarded to section members in accordance with the RREC Rules for Sections AGM timetable.

Events for 2018

17 January	The Old Mill, Metal Bridge
21 February	The Old Mill, Metal Bridge
21 March	The Old Mill, Metal Bridge
7/8 April	Club Conference and AGM
18 April	The Old Mill, Metal Bridge
22 April	Drive-it Day - no details of any Section organised event
22 April	Mark Woodward; Ripon Spring Classic Car Show - Ripon Race Course *
16 May	The Old Mill, Metal Bridge
28 May	Mark Woodward; Yorkshire Classic Vehicle Show - Ripley Castle *
16 June	Stokesley Rotary Club; Classics on Show *
20 June	The Old Mill, Metal Bridge
22/24 June	Annual Rally, Burghley House, Stamford
1 July tbc	MGOC; Classic Vehicle Rally Tyndale Park, Corbridge *
15 July tbc	NECPWA; Newby Hall Rally *
18 July	The Old Mill, Metal Bridge
29 July	Ripon Old Cars; Classic Gathering - Ripon Race Course *
4/5 August tbc	North of England Rally, Harewood House
15 August	The Old Mill, Metal Bridge
26 August	Mark Woodward; Ripon Summer Classic Car Show - Ripon Race Course *
19 September	The Old Mill, Metal Bridge
23/30 September tbc	NECPWA; Beamish Rally *
17 October	The Old Mill, Metal Bridge
21 November	The Old Mill, Metal Bridge
19 December	The Old Mill, Metal Bridge, (Christmas Dinner tbc)

* These are not RREC events but are open to all marques, and are also open to the general public, and are commercially organised, usually in order to raise funds for charity. If you are interested in attending any of these events, please contact a member of the committee to find out whether there will be a Section presence. If not, entry forms can be found on the relevant organisers' website.

Mark Woodward usually arranges two events at Raby Castle during the summer, one early and one late. Dates are not yet published. In the past the JDC Area 11 have invited NE Section members to their stand for the August event.

The dates for the NECPWA and MGOC events have also not been published yet, so the dates given are estimations based on previous years. Similarly I have no date for the Swainby show, which seems to vary year on year, but confirmation will be made available when known. Alternatively keep a watch on the relevant websites.



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The starting line-up for one of the heats of the 1962 VSCC Pomeroy Trophy (described as the one hour blind) consisted of three Rolls-Royce motor cars:

D Machillen 20/25 Cabriolet;

R Hall PII Saloon;

D Fitzpatrick PI Supercharged Tourer;

To achieve maximum points according to the Pomeroy formula, I had to average 56mph, I think I achieved 53 mph. Did we have a racing License - No; did we have competition licenses - No; were we racing - Yes!

This all took place at Silverstone in late February. How motoring has changed.

Roger

Contact Point Comments

The weather is colder as the nights draw in and the only events remaining for this event year look like being the day trip in November to the NEC Classic Motor Show organised by Jim Clark, **(If that takes place. Ed)** the Christmas Event and the AGM.

The Christmas Event this year will be on Wednesday 20th December at the Old Mill, Metal Bridge in Co. Durham, where we have our monthly meetings. There is a booking form elsewhere in this Newsletter, and a provisional booking of 25 places has been made, but because the date is quite close to Christmas I would ask for prompt responses in returning the booking form, because there is no guarantee that it will be possible to increase those 25 places.

The booking form indicates a subsidy of £7.50 per Section Member household making the cost £15.00 for a single householder and £37.50 for a householder couple.

The size of the subsidy for the Christmas event indicates that there has only been one event eligible for subsidy organised in year by the Section for Section Members, with others either cancelled because of lack of support or because of delays in finalising arrangements – sometimes for reasons outside the control of the organiser.

This observation does not mean the Section has been inactive because what we are seeing is an increasing involvement in events organised by others including the MGOC rally at Corbridge, the Swainby village fete and most recently the Beamish Museum event organised by NECPWA, to name just three.

The main event of the year was the Section weekend at Doxford Hall at the end of September attended by just 16 people as two parties did not attend, one through ill-health, the other because his car of the marque “failed to proceed” en-route to joining the event.

The last Section weekend event was in 2013. This year’s event was organised by Martin Vinson and Tony Henfrey, and thanks go to them for organising an interesting but demanding itinerary, greatly appreciated by those participating in this successful event, which is reported in more detail elsewhere in this Newsletter.

The AGM this year will be held in January 2018 and papers will be circulated to Section Members in due course and in line with the timetable set by the RREC.

I attended the RREC Annual Conference earlier this year at which it was announced that the current Rules for Sections were to be reviewed. These Rules provide the regulatory framework within which the RREC expect a Section to manage its affairs. There are some fundamental issues that have to be resolved in that the current Rules adopted by the Board make it absolutely crystal clear that it is the Section Committee



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that is responsible for determining the criteria for Section Membership. However, the criticism of the current rules is that they facilitate the creation of a club (the Section) within a Club (the RREC) and it is clear that some RREC members would prefer to have more open arrangements in place under the umbrella of the RREC.

Our Section Membership numbers have declined over the last three years, largely due to an increasingly elderly membership, and members selling their cars, but has prompted discussion at our most recent Committee meetings about what options there might be to improve active membership numbers going forward, and I am of the opinion that those options will need to be discussed at the AGM.

The bottom line is that the section exists for the section membership who elect a Committee to manage the affairs of the Section, and prepare a programme of events. The expectation then is that the membership support that programme, and if that does not happen, the question that begins to raise its head is whether the numbers of active Section Members are such that the Section is viable, or not.

There have been two vacancies on the Committee throughout this year and I would welcome nominations to the AGM to join the Committee from the Section Membership to fill those vacancies, and perhaps bring in new ideas and a fresh perspective on Section activity.

Martin Vinson gave notice, some twelve months ago, that he would be standing down as Newsletter Editor after completion of this edition, and, to date, I am not aware that a replacement has come forward. The consequences of the present situation may mean that this Section Newsletter will be the last to be produced.

Martin has been a pillar of this Section for many years with two stints over 7 years as Secretary and 16 years as Newsletter Editor as well as an organiser of events comprising this year of our only Section event to Ormesby Hall, and the Section Week-end event with Tony Henfrey.

My thanks to Martin on behalf of myself, the Section Committee and Members for his varied and significant contribution over the years to the activities of the Section ably supported by Jackie. I am sure that I would not be alone welcoming a continuation of involvement from Martin and Jackie going forward.

Rod MacLeod.

Secretary

19th October 2017

Welfare

Gordon Blacklock was unwell and unable to attend the Section Weekend. However, he seems to be much better, and is out and about again. Sheila Mansfield is well on the road to recovery, although I think she is still off driving. Rod is still suffering with knees, which are painful following surgery. We hope that normal service is resumed for all as soon as possible.

Newsletter Editor's Comments

My thanks to Rod for his kind remarks, above.

No doubt you all spotted last edition's mistake, or at least one of them. Last time the heading should have been September/October. This one is for November!



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I have been talking about it for a long time, and now the time has finally arrived. This is my last newsletter. I have enjoyed the past sixteen years, or so, and wish my successor every good wish. I will be happy to assist, whoever it is, to get started, and answer any questions that might arise. That, then, would seem to be that.

Martin

Where we have been:-

Beamish Open Air Museum – Sunday 24 September



North Eastern Section cars were on parade at the top of the field looking down on the masses! The line up included:- Derek Moss (Silver Cloud III), Geoff and Sheila Mansfield (Silver Shadow II), Bernie Surtees (Bentley Turbo RL), Rod MacLeod (Bentley Arnage Red Label), Nick Clark (a late 20hp), and Tom Horner (an earlier 20hp).

The Mercedes-Benz, RREC and Jaguar Drivers and Enthusiasts' Clubs were allowed their own parking areas at the top of the field. The rest were herded into an agglomeration lower down. It was lucky that no-one needed to leave early for an emergency, as that would not have been possible.

I had not been to Beamish for several years, and had a good look round. There were one or two other people there as well, so some of the exhibitions, and especially catering establishments were rather crowded. Nevertheless, it was an enjoyable day, the weather was fine, and there were interesting displays to see, although it still seemed to me that I had lived through a lot of those times that to the young, used to today's technology, would appear incredibly primitive.

There was, as usual, an eclectic collection of cars on display, together with their proud owners.

Martin



JPC Charity Event Wynward Hall

Report by Allan Fishburn.

RREC members present included:

Peter Charlton (RR 20/25), (Phantom II), (Bentley T1), Jim Clark (Bentley Turbo R)
Allan Fishburn (RR 20/25), Geoff Mansfield (RR Silver Shadow II, and Jaguar C Type Replica).

A very good day and a wonderful array of new cars from Porsche, Ferrari, Audi, Bentley, Lexus, VW, Ford, Aston Martin, Volvo, Nissan and Mercedes-Benz. On the Bentley stand there was a trimmer, from the factory, hand stitching steering wheels. A real craftsman.

Also there were racing cars from Gibson Motorsport, with three McLaren racing cars together with a P1, and Porsche Redline Racing, with a transporter with several Porsche racing cars.

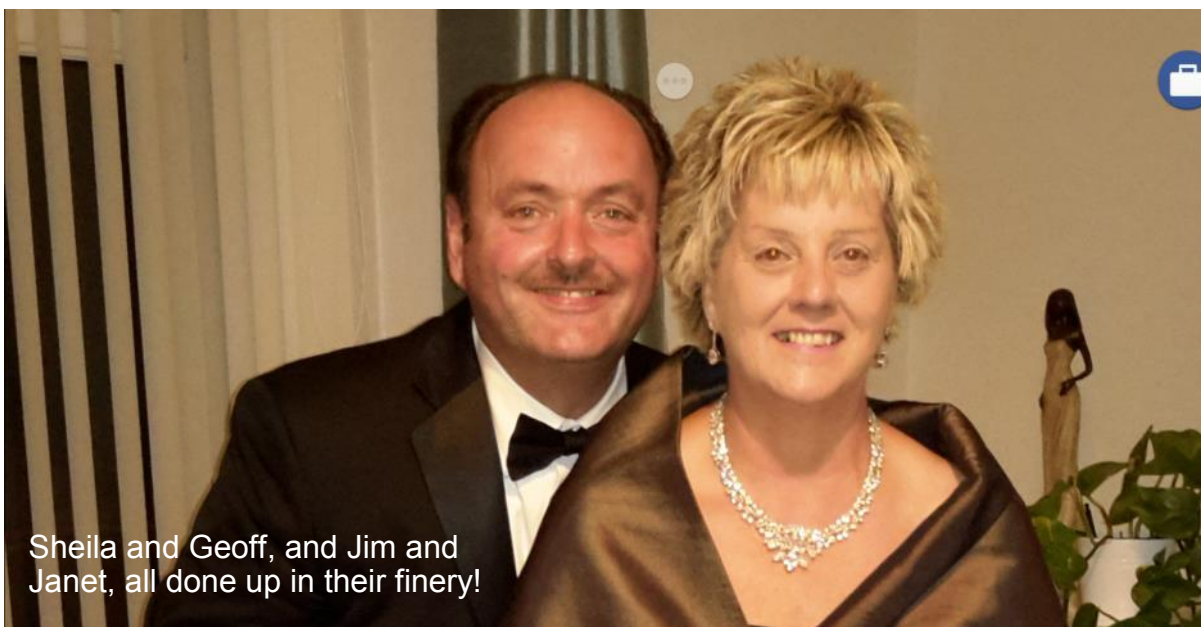
There were over fifty classic cars, including a Ferrari Daytona, an alloy bodied Gullwing Mercedes-Benz (I think they only made 25), an Aston Martin DB5, from the Aston Workshop at Beamish, as well as a Morgan 3 Wheeler and Healey 100/4.

At 12.30pm a convoy of exotic cars arrived from Leeds. Lots of noise and smoking tyres. Russ Swift was in attendance with his Cobra, a very rare car, as it was the first right hand drive Cobra, chassis No.1. His wife was also there with an AC Ace, and there were two Drake Racing Cars from Paul Granger, of Billingham. Tiff Needell was there wandering around talking to people.

At 5.00pm Ben and I left to go and get changed for the evening dinner, and talk by Tiff Needell and Dr Andrew Shovlin, race director for the Mercedes Formula 1 Team.

An auction followed the dinner, which included a wing section of Lewis Hamilton's





2013 winning car, together with many other interesting lots.
There was also a fashion show for the ladies.
The event raised £50,000 for charity.

Allan

Section weekend, Northumberland.

It had been eighteen months in the planning, but still things contrived to go wrong at the last minute. Very unfortunately two couples had to cry off owing to health problems. Bob Riding, from the Isle of Man, and our own Gordon Blacklock. We were lucky in that Peter and Kerry Hunter (JDC) stepped in at very short notice, but Gordon and Margaret had to cancel at such short notice that there was not time to find anyone else to stand in. On the afternoon of our arrival Frank Benyon had car problems on his way to the hotel, and he, too, had to call it a day. And so twenty became sixteen. The Doxford Hall Hotel and Spa were marvellous, and apart from the initial £25 deposits,

already paid, no charges were made for those who failed to appear. The hotel was comfortable, the food good, and the staff could not have been more helpful. Saturday had been arranged by Tony Henfrey, and he welcomed us all to his home at Callaly Castle, for coffee, followed by a short but scenic drive to Jonathon Radgwick's



garage at Rothbury. RREC member Jonathon restores classic and vintage cars, and had a number of projects in progress, together with a number of cars in storage. We then drove the short distance to Cragside House. A light lunch seemed to be the or-



der of the day in their café, followed by a wander around the house. It is some years since I was last there and I do not think that I had reached the top floor before where there was a somewhat over the top fireplace! Tony had devised a scenic drive back to the hotel, and I confess that I succeeded in getting us lost, mainly by ignoring instructions from my navigator, after which we resorted to the satnav!

On Sunday we drove to Chillingham Castle, just west of the A1. The castle had played host to royalty many times during its life, including Edward I, who used it as a

base for beating up William Wallace, and the week before our arrival, when Prince Philip had stayed. The castle is supposed to be one of the most haunted in England, and one member of the party was a little concerned by a gauntlet which seemed to have turned over all by itself. It later transpired that Jim Clark was playing tricks, but



perhaps he got his just deserts later on. (see below)

The castle is planned on several floors, and the stairs were a problem for some of the party.

We were given an interesting tour by an excellent guide, who was very knowledgeable and brought the whole place to life. After a light lunch in their café we all went our separate ways, although Jackie and I stayed an extra night in the hotel, before driving north to Falkirk, to get up close and personal with the Kelpies.



My thanks to Tony for all his hard work, and to everyone else who came and made the weekend a success.



Martin

Where we are going:-

NEC Classic Car Show – 10/11/12 November 2017

There has been little or no interest in attending this event. Jim will probably go with a select selection of friends in a private car.

Christmas Dinner at The Old Mill, Metal Bridge –

Wednesday 20 December 2017

A booking has been made for twenty five people, and there is a booking form at the end of this newsletter. Please return it to Rod as soon as possible.

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