

# KEMPSFORD

## CLASSIC CAR & MOTORCYCLE CLUB

Newsletter  
Spring 2007

In the last edition of the Newsletter we looked back on a great Summer and remembered some of the classic events the Club was involved in. In this edition we'll be looking forward to some of this years events and hoping that it will soon stop raining! And none more so than Martin Randal whose Vauxhall Cresta PA was flooded out in the January rains in spite of being 'safely' garaged. We all hope the damage wasn't too severe, Martin.

Meanwhile, we're on the Internet! A very nice chap called Byron Martin runs a website at [www.cotswoldsteam.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldsteam.co.uk) and has very kindly devoted a page to our Club with a gallery of photos. I sent him the last Newsletter, which he is going to put on his site and I've told him I'll let him have more photos. I



intend to send him any photos you send me. If you'd rather not have your pictures on his site please be sure to let me know.

While I'm on the subject of the internet, have you checked out [www.petrolprices.com](http://www.petrolprices.com) yet? No? Well I can tell you that the cheapest petrol within 5 miles of Kempsford is 86.9p and you can get it at the Shell garage on the Fairford – Lechlade road. Second cheapest is 87.9 at the Esso On The Run garage on the A419 at Cricklade. However, if you want to go a bit further afield there are no end of petrol stations in Swindon selling it at 85.9p. The nearest to Kempsford is Asda on Thamesdown Drive (the big new Asda on the orbital road)

Thanks to those who responded to my plea for contributions: Arthur Rolls, Janet Lucas, Guy Rogers and Terry Chesterman. Arthur's contribution is a timely reminder that we're not just a car club but have a lot of motorcycle interest as well. Please, everyone, send me your pictures and stories. Don't want to write it? No problem, just give me a ring. Haven't got a story? No problem, just give me the details of your vehicle. Haven't got a picture? No problem, I'll take one for you. In other words, no excuses!

### MEMBERS MOTORS AND BIKES

#### ARTHUR ROLLS

This month we feature Arthur Rolls' motorcycles and Janet Lucas' Triumph TR6. First up is Arthur, who writes:

"Over the last 30 years or so I have restored several bikes including a 1954 BSA B33 and a 1970's Yamaha RD 250cc production racer. In the late eighties I was looking out for a BSA 650cc Road Rocket to restore when a work colleague offered me a 1970 BSA 650cc A65 Thunderbolt that he had just brought back from South Africa, mostly in biscuit tins and plastic bags."



"After an initial burst of enthusiasm when I rebuilt the engine and had the frame powder coated, the bike remained in a shed for ten years. Serious restoration started in the autumn of 2000 and was more or less complete by the spring of 2001. After a fair amount of hassle with the D.V.L.C. the

bike was given an age related number and was ready to ride for that summer. There are still a few items needed to complete the restoration, such as the correct shaped seat end side panels. This is in hand and should be completed by the spring of 2007."

"My other bike is a 1956 Frances Barnet 197cc Falcon. This was bought in 2003 as a pile of scrap which had obviously been stored in a barn as can be seen from the photo. Even the bottom of the tank was rusted out. Now this is a lovely bike for riding around the country lanes on a summer evening, me on the Barnet and Len on his G2 Matchless or his D3 Bantam."



Frances Barnet 197cc Falcon: before and after restoration

"My 13 year old grandson Matthew has a 1976 Yamaha FS1E (Fizzy) which was recently recovered from the depths of a garage where, according to the tax disc, it had been since it was last used in 1986. It has had some cosmetic restoration carried out, such as cleaning up the chrome as best we can and respraying the frame. The engine only needed a new head gasket, plug and lead to get it going. We hope to restore it to something like original condition before Matthew is 16 as he is keen to ride it out on the road. The sooner the better as my back lawn is rapidly taking on the appearance of a speedway track."



Arthur, Len and Matthew

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### JANET LUCAS

Janet's 1972 Signal Red TR6 was fully restored in 1995 and, as the pictures testify, is still in beautiful condition twelve years later, and only has 66,701 miles on the clock. Janet's car has the 150bhp fuel injected version of the 2498cc straight six engine. This was down-graded to 125bhp towards the end of '72. It has been said that this was to prevent it from up-staging the new and much more prestigious Triumph Stag (incidentally, am I the only person on the planet who doesn't like the Stag?). Whatever the truth of that 1972 marked the high point of the TR story. Steve Wilson goes as far as to suggest that it may even be "the ultimate British sports car."

Well, Steve should be qualified to judge as has driven it, and a lot of other contenders besides. Steve is a journalist for Classic Car Mart magazine and featured Janet's car in last December's edition. Janet said he disappeared for over an hour in her car and she was beginning to wonder if she would see either of them again! Judging from the Steve's description of his drive I recon she would have been more worried if she had been with him in the cockpit!:



"Clenching the wheel hard at 70 plus I slammed up from third into top and put the pedal down again as the bend approached. Take it fast, a bit of a battle but way better than backing off, and we're edging up towards



90 for the next one. Same deal, keep the power on, wrestle it round, arms braced, over the bumps and your all right (just)" That sort of driving is all very well when you're doing it yourself, but it's not so easy to accept when someone else is doing it, and doing it in your cherished classic to boot!

On the subject of Steve Wilson and Classic Car Mart: it's fast becoming our unofficial Newsletter. As well as Janet's TR6, Terry's Vauxhall Cresta PA has been also featured, my MGA is in the April 2007 issue, and I'm given to believe we may see a familiar Austin Healy 3000 in the near future.

Thanks again to Arthur and Janet for their contributions; I hope they may inspire the rest of you to do the same and stop your Newsletter becoming a showcase for red roadsters (much as I love them).



Two other cars to mention: Terry has sold his '55 Humber Hawk Estate. Here's a picture of it on the trailer. We hope you made a nice profit, Terry!

Also on a trailer, but arriving this time is Mike Couling's new MGB GT. I don't have any details of this car but let's hope Mike keeps a photo record of its progress.

#### LETTER FROM GUY

"As the more observant of you may have noticed, I have not been around for a while. I can't remember the last meeting I went to and I totally missed the Stoneleigh trip. My excuse, and I'm sticking to it, is that I am now working with the Cotswold Water Park Society and seem to have little or no time to myself. This, combined with a bout of ill health at the beginning of the year meant that I have been unable to fulfil my duties with the Club. Hence no newsletters and for that I apologise. Thank goodness for Alistair and well done on his first newsletter, which was both colourful and informative."



"On the personal side the season really ended with a bang, literally. I had a car run into the back of the MGB. The irony of it was that it was a Ro80, almost identical to mine, and to cap it all; the owner later bought the garage full of Ro80 spares and my car. As luck would have it the damage to my MG was confined to the bodywork only, and not the chassis, and it is all repairable. So I now have just the MGB, a shade battered but with the money from the sale of the Ro I can have some of the more frilly bits sorted out while the damage is being repaired."

"I look forward to seeing you all next season. Most of the time I will have the car at rallies, but there may be some at which I will be running the Water Park stand. If you see me there come and say hello!"

We certainly will, Guy, and thanks for the kind words

### FILKINS CLASSIC CAR SHOW

The Club has been invited to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Filkins Classic Car Show to be held on the afternoon of Sunday 10 June. The first show, two years ago, was an outstanding success with 90 cars participating and the organisers hope to pass the 100 mark this year.

The event, which is timed to coincide with the National Gardens open scheme in the village, will be held in a flat mown field in the centre of Filkins. There will be no charge for participants, who will need to be there from about 12.00 to 5.00 pm. The objective is to raise money for urgent Church repairs by charging visitors to the village to view the cars. There will be ample space for pick-nicking and the local village charity, St Filica, will have a barbecue on site. In addition to village gardens, the Cotswold Woollen Weavers, the stonemasons, the Wood Carving Centre and the Village Museum will all be open.



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There is no need to book for this as Terry has arranged for us to have a Club pitch. Talking of Club pitches, does anyone know where this picture was taken? It seems to include many of the usual suspects but the poor old photographer can't remember where it was.

### ROY'S RESTORATION

Last time the Club met Roy had just started the alterations to The George. The bar was in a state of semi-demolition with plaster off the walls and half the counter missing. Naturally enough Roy had to concentrate his efforts on getting the improvements finished and the tills ringing merrily. And aren't we glad he did. I'm sure you will all want to join me in saying congratulations and well done, Roy. Of course, this has meant that the restoration of his TR3A has had to take second place. However, work is now under way. The major panels are off the car and most have been repaired and primed, and here is a photo to prove it. More progress in the next Newsletter...



### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

6 March Club meeting at The George, Kempford

11 March Spring Classic Car & Restoration Show, Stoneleigh Park. Call 01568 797228 for details

23-25 March International Historic Motorsport Show, Stoneleigh Park. Call 01376 250001 for details

8 April Weston-Super-Mare Sea Cadets Classic Vehicle Rally. Free entry. Call G J Coles on 01934 629800 or K Palmer on 01934 627563

9 April Coleford Carnival

29 April Wheel Nuts Motor Show, St Rose's School, Stroud. Call 01453 763793 for further details

10 June Filkins Classic Car Show (see above). No need to book for this event as we will have a Club stand. 12.00 to 17.00. Call 01376 860195 for details

16-17 June Lister Tynedale Steam Rally, Berkley Castle. Call 01453 765445 for details.

3 July Club meeting at The George, Kempford

### Contact:

If you have any stories, photos or information you think ought to be included in the next Newsletter, or would like to comment on anything in this edition, please contact me, Alistair Kennedy, as follows:

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