



BRUNEL TRs
The local group of the
TR Register in the Bristol, Bath
and surrounding area
March 2016
No. 183



Group Leader's Ramblings

As I mentioned in our last newsletter, this missive will now resort back to monthly during the “active” months. This month’s newsletter is coming out a little bit later than planned due to waiting for some event confirmations. The Events Calendar includes quite a few additions, which are highlighted. I was also asked to provide further information of specific events and have added a hyperlink to the event website. I hope that this will provide you with sufficient information before deciding which event to attend.

It was good to see many of you at our recent Annual General Meeting, the Minutes of which will be attached to our April newsletter. I hope that we can take this group forward in the future. As I announced, this will be my last year as Group Leader. This is due mainly to finding myself with insufficient time to devote to carrying out the role to my satisfaction. I also find it difficult to actually get out in the TR these days and being way behind with my planned winter programme of work on the TR3 I am not sure when the old girl will be on the road this year. Hopefully, in a few weeks time.

The annual classic car meeting on the Beach Lawns at Weston-Super-Mare takes place over the Easter weekend and Somerset Triumphs will be there on the Sunday. Entry is free and you just need to turn up. Elf is attending on the Saturday I believe. If you want to join her, just give her a call.

The forthcoming HSSC Anniversary Meeting at Castle Combe I have added to the calendar for anyone interested in watching some interesting and always thrilling racing at this splendid circuit. I hope to get there myself on one of the days over the weekend.

You will note that the header includes our revised logo. Essentially it is our previous one but we have just added the TR Register emblem.



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Also, following a suggestion made at our last meeting we will look into producing a new flyer in the format of a business card. This may be something that I will have raised at the forthcoming Group Leader's meeting in April.

Please remember my plea for photographs (electronic format only and as high a resolution as possible please) and an accompanying event report would be much appreciated.

Andy

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Social Scene

At our April meeting, Wednesday 20th, Les Weekes has organised a talk and slides by Royston Griffey on the Matthew, the recreation of John Cabot's ship that he sailed on to discover North America in 1497. (*That's John Cabot not Les Weekes - Andy*) This should be a very interesting evening and we hope to follow it up with an actual visit later in the year. There will be a nominal charge, which will go towards the upkeep of the ship.

We propose to start the meeting at 8pm

Further details of the Matthew can be found at <http://www.matthew.co.uk>

Bob Sackley has very kindly passed on details of an event for Drive-it-Day on 24th April. It is titled the Cheddar Cheese Run and organized by the Classic and Historic Motor Club. It is a basic fun scatter rally. Further details and an entry form are attached to this newsletter.

If anyone has any other suggestions for Drive-it-Day please let me know.



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Our proposed trip to France has progressed well with a total of five TR's taking part. All the ferries have been booked so now it is just down to the vehicle fettling. I think that we are going to have a wonderful time.

I have retained our original proposal below as I believe that it is still possible for any member who wishes to join us.

Elf

FRENCH TRIP

Accommodation at Jean and Eric's house at La Bossardais, St Aubin des Chateaux, near Chateaubriant, Loire Atlantique 44110. The house is set in an acre of land, has 4 double bedrooms, one with en- suite and 2 bathrooms. There is also gîte accommodation in the area. The proposed dates and travel arrangements are Tuesday 21st June departing Poole 8.30 am and Arriving at Cherbourg at 13.45 pm; then leaving from Cherbourg 1700h Thursday 30th June and arriving Portsmouth at 1900h (high speed ferry). The current return fare is £201.60 (with discount) for 1 car with 2 passengers. The distance from Cherbourg to La Bossardais is approx. 200 miles, motorway (non-toll) except for final 10 miles of country roads.

The suggestion is that we plan day trips to places such as Nantes, the capital of Loire Atlantique, the Loire Valley, the coast at La Baulle, La Roche Bernard on the estuary and the walled city of Guerande. There are also local places of interest and a large lake with creperie within walking distance.

Lunchtime meals can be bought very reasonably; the menu du jour is usually around 12 euros sometimes including wine! The kitchen is fairly well equipped and we have a very large dining table! Hopefully, a good mix of relaxation and fun.

Best wishes

Jean and Eric



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A Visit to the Doctor

When I first drove my TR I noticed that it tended to 'pink' and had an uneven tick-over. A check showed that the air/fuel mixture and static timing were correct. Further investigation revealed a broken spring in the automatic ignition advance mechanism. From a packet of assorted springs from Moss a spring corresponding to the broken item was fitted and all seemed well for several years.

After a further 30,000 miles and a total of 100,000 miles on the clock, the tick-over and general performance had noticeably deteriorated and general wear of the distributor was suspected. On removal from the car, a check of the manufacturing date and the Lucas part number stamped into the lower body casting revealed that this was a replacement unit of a type intended for a Mini 1000! It appears that the Lucas 25D4 distributor was fitted to many cars of the 1950s, 60s, and 70s, and could well have been fitted when the car was 15 or so years old, and possibly in the hands of an impecunious owner who relied on the scrapyard for spares. Just because a distributor looks right, fits, and operates, it doesn't mean that it is the correct item for the car and, amongst other things, it is unlikely that the advance curve will be correct.

A chat with Martin Jay, aka 'The Distributor Doctor' (01984 629540), confirmed my suspicions and an appointment was made to take the unit to his premises in Wiveliscombe.

On arrival the distributor was booked in and placed in a bin to await its turn in the queue for overhaul, currently about 5 weeks. During a tour of the workshop it was explained that the unit is first stripped, all parts cleaned, including bead blasting of the alloy body, and then inspected for wear. After reassembly, using new bearing sleeves, advance springs, vacuum unit, contact breaker etc. as appropriate, the distributor is bench tested and set up to the appropriate advance curve. A copy of this curve is supplied to the customer. 'Electronic points' can be incorporated if required. Normally units are sent and returned by post and personal visits are by appointment. Bristol to Wiveliscombe is about 50 miles and the trip is a good excuse to have lunch in one of the many pubs in this pleasant area of West Somerset. Avoid Mondays since most of the pubs seem to be shut!



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Is it worth it? In my case, yes, the engine now has a steady tick-over and the acceleration is smoother and improved. Genuine new old-stock distributors of exactly the correct type are hard to come by and to refurbish and set up a mongrel unit to the correct advance curve needs a proper test bench to which the average owner will not have access.

Extensive information is available by 'Googling' Lucas Distributors and also visiting the website www.distributordoctor.com.

Please note that the writer has no connection with this supplier other than as a satisfied customer.

Bob Sackley

Events Calendar

New and revised dates highlighted in red. Website details included where available.

March

Sunday 27th – Classic Car Meeting, Beach Lawns, Weston-super-Mare

April

Tuesday 12th – TR Register Track Day, Castle Combe

Saturday/Sunday 16th/17th – HSCC 50th Anniversary Race Meeting, Castle Combe

Sunday 17th – Triumph New Forest Run
<http://www.triumphnewforestrun.co.uk>

Wednesday 20th – Monthly meeting, The Jubilee Inn, Flax Bourton
With a talk on the Matthew, the recreation on John Cabot's sailing ship by Royston Griffey – 8pm start

Saturday 23rd – Revington TR Open Day
<http://www.revingtontr.com>

Sunday 24th – Drive-it-Day 2016, The Classic and Historic Motor Club, Cheddar Cheese Run



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May

Wednesday 18th – Monthly meeting, The Jubilee Inn, Flax Bourton

June

Sunday 5th - **Cherished Vehicle and Farm Fun Day, Allington Farm
Near Chippenham**
<http://www.tractorted.co.uk/Allington>

Saturday/Sunday 18th/19th – **Bristol Classic Car Show, Shepton Mallet**
<http://www.carsandevents.com>

Saturday/Sunday 18th/19th – **Bath Festival of Motoring**
<http://www.bathfestivalofmotoring.com>

Wednesday 15th – Monthly meeting, The Jubilee Inn, Flax Bourton

Tuesday 21st to Saturday 25th – **Brunel French Trip**

Sunday 26th – **Chipping Sodbury Run**

July

Saturday/Sunday 9th/10th – **Powderham Historic Vehicle Gathering, Exeter**
<http://www.historic-vehicle-gathering.info>

Fri/Sat/Sun 15th/16th/17th – **TR Register International Weekend, Lincoln**

Wednesday 20th – Monthly meeting, The Jubilee Inn, Flax Bourton

Fri/Sat/Sun 29th/30th/31st – **Silverstone Classic**
<http://www.silverstoneclassic.com>



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August

Saturday/Sunday 6th/7th – **South Gloucestershire Show, Westerleigh**
<http://www.southglosshow.co.uk>

Wednesday 17th – Monthly meeting, The Jubilee Inn, Flax Bourton

September

Sunday 4th – **Tetbury Classic Car Show**

Wednesday 21st – Monthly meeting, The Jubilee Inn, Flax Bourton

October

Saturday 1st – **Autumn Classic Meeting, Castle Combe**

Wednesday 19th – Monthly meeting, The Jubilee Inn, Flax Bourton

November

Wednesday 16th – Monthly meeting, The Jubilee Inn, Flax Bourton

December

Saturday 10th – **Brunel Christmas Dinner, Alveston House Hotel (tbc)**

Wednesday 21st – Monthly meeting, The Jubilee Inn, Flax Bourton

Note

Events in bold are where we plan to have a Brunel presence



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Brunel's officers and contact details

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Treasurer:

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April Newsletter deadline:

Deadline for articles: Friday 15th April

Publication: Monday 18th April