



WESSEX NEWS

Preserving the marque in Hampshire

You should by now have heard the very sad news that Stuart Thompson died earlier this week, quietly and peacefully with his daughter Claire and wife Linda by his side. Linda sends her grateful thanks to all for their kind wishes and other kindnesses in the past few difficult weeks.

Stuart's funeral will be held at the Southampton Crematorium on Wednesday 30th November at 14.00 hours: Southampton Crematorium (East Chapel), Basset Green Road, Southampton, SO16 3QB with tea afterwards at Romsey Golf Club.

Adrian Thompson will be taking Stuart's TR to the Crematorium and Linda has asked that those attending should also come in their TRs if at all possible.

Donations only, if desired, should be made payable to either:

Countess Mountbatten Hospice Charity or Jane Scarth House. and forwarded C/o A H Cheater Ltd, Funeral Directors, 122 The Hundred, Romsey, SO51 8BY

An appreciation of Stuart's life will be included in a future edition of the newsletter.

Breaking with recent tradition there will be a December edition of the newsletter focusing on the year ahead.

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James

The Committee Page

Over the next few months the Committee will take responsibility for the Group Leader's duties, in anticipation of a member coming forward before the summer to take the role on permanently.

We are, as a committee, understrength and would welcome support from the membership. If you are interested in joining the committee, please in the first instance contact one of us to talk about the roles we are looking for and how you could make a difference to the effective running of Wessex TR. The tasks are not onerous and the chat is lively and fun at meetings so do give it a try!

If you spot any gaps over the coming weeks, please let one of us know!

Congratulations to Chris Cunnington on his recent elevation; As an Honorary Vice President of the club, he joins Ian Cornish and Ian Evens.

The balance for the Christmas party meal is due for payment by the 1st December and there are still a few places left if you would like to join us – details on page 4.

Diary of Events 2016

Month 2016	Event	Location / Details
November 22 nd	Club Night	DVD night at The Nondescripts Club 8.00pm

December Sunday 18th

THE Christmas Bash

The Blue Hayes Restaurant, Salisbury Rd, Shootash, Romsey, SO51 6GA from **7:30 until 11:30**



All events are covered in full on the Wessex TR Register Facebook page and any late updates or cancellations will be published there.



Our Christmas bash this year is at the Blue Hayes Restaurant, Salisbury Rd, Shootash, Romsey, SO51 6GA from

7:30 until 11:30 on Sunday 18th December.

There will be a three course meal (*see menu below*), followed by music courtesy of our very own DJ, John Davies and dancing of course. Although we have secured exclusive use of this venue, places are limited, therefore

if you wish to be part of the Wessex TR festive fun a deposit of £10.00 pp and your choice from the menu is required by no later than October 31st. The final balance will then be due by December 1st. Cheques should be made payable to the TR Register Wessex Group and sent to Tony Alderton, 9 Coppice Close, St. Ives, Ringwood, BH24 2LB.

Starters

Spiced Butternut Squash Soup with Truffle Oil
Roasted Portobello Mushrooms Filled with Cranbury Wensleydale and Pecan Salad
Tuna Carpaccio with a Lemon Dressing
Pork, Apple & Calvados Pate with Finedor & Red Onion Chutney
Rosette of Melon with Champagne Sorbet

Main Course

Traditional Roast Turkey with Sage & Chestnut Stuffing, Wrapped Sausage, Cranbury Sauce & Roast Potatoes
Slow Braised Lamb Shank with Garlic Creamed Potatoes & a Port Wine Sauce
Chilli & Lime Grilled Fish Medley (Consisting of Red Mullet, Salmon, Haddock & Prawns) with Parsley Potatoes
Pepper, Spinach & Goats Cheese Pithivier with Buttered New Potatoes

Desserts

Black Cherry & Brandy Crème Brulee
Steamed Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce
Spiced Apple Tart with Clotted Cream Ice Cream
Four Layer Chocolate Fudge Cake
Salted Caramel Roulade

Tea or Coffee

3 Course £26

2 Course £23

**The 2016
Round Britain
Reliability
Run 50th
Anniversary**



Having recently acquired "Geoffrey", a 1957 TR3 which had done a lot of classic rallies with its previous owner, we were keen to maintain the TRadition and do adventurous things with it. When another member mentioned the Club Triumph RBRR to us we immediately signed up. We were late in doing so and so had several anxious months on the waiting list wondering if enough cars & crews would drop out before the final cut was made.

The 2016 event was special because it was the 50th anniversary of the first event and so the entry was increased to 150. We were number 156. Finally we heard that we were in and the serious preparation started together with the realisation that what we had signed up for was not for the faint hearted!

We quizzed veterans of the run at the International Weekend at Lincoln and were encouraged by those who had done it before. When we told them we were doing it in a sidescreen car the conversation tended to dry up! But it has been done before, indeed TS2 has done it and several TR3A's so it can't be that bad surely!

The first thing to sort was the seating. The previous owner had installed Cobra Cub seats and 4-point harnesses. The seats were tired, particularly the passenger seat. Knowing that comfort was vital for the co-driver to have any chance of sleep we invested - I use the term advisedly - in a pair of Racetoration's Mk2 seats complete with a lumbar pump kit in resplendent red leather with white piping to match the existing interior trim.

Now Geoffrey is by no means in concours d'elegance condition. Indeed purists would shudder at the modifications that have been done by the previous owner. The list is long but the modifications made were purposeful and tried and tested over 20 years of active classic rallying. The Monte Carlo Challenge twice, the Circuit of Ireland and the Classic Malts to name a few, all of which were finished well up the order.

[Continued...](#)

We wanted to get to know the car, have confidence in its reliability and in our own stamina before embarking on continental touring and rallying. What better event to test man and machine! I have to admit that our preparations for the event were bordering on the obsessive but we were venturing into the unknown having not done anything like this before.

We attended the Driver's Briefing at the British Motor Museum, Gaydon and were amazed by the vast number of people taking part and the enormity of the organisation required by the Club Triumph organisers. It is certainly no small undertaking to organise such an event.

The line up at the start at Knebworth House was even more impressive. Around 130 cars finally made the start and we set off on the adventure in glorious evening sunshine.

We set off from Knebworth House near Stevenage at 1800h on 7th October with 132 other Triumphs of all models from a 1948 Renown up to several Acclairs. There was a TR3A also present but apart from the Renown we were the oldest car on the run. The honour of side screen TRs was at stake! It was quite a sight.

We motored up the A1 to the first checkpoint at Blyth, to Carter Bar on the Scottish border, on to Kinross and Skiatch. We reached John O'Groats at 0800h on Saturday morning for a well-earned breakfast. The weather was fantastic - which greatly eased the experience I must say. I think the best stretch was Saturday's drive through the Highlands in glorious sunshine (we did keep the hood up as the co-driver was trying to sleep!).



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We dropped down to Stirling and back in to England before entering Wales at Oswestry (Gledrid Services was the checkpoint). The Welsh section through Llandrindod & Builth Wells, Abergavenny and on to Chepstow and the Severn crossing was great fun on Saturday night as the roads were empty.

The next checkpoint was just outside Bridgwater and then on to Land's End via a checkpoint at Okehampton on the A30. We arrived at Land's End at 0730 on Sunday for breakfast having covered 1600 miles or so.

By this time it was a war of attrition, despite the glorious weather, driver fatigue had set in. It was not easy to sleep even in comfortable seats with all the adrenalin flowing and the wind noise through the side screens!

We went on to Bude, then across Dartmoor, dodging sheep and ponies, to Blandford. At the last checkpoint at Pimperne we were greatly encouraged by our local supporters! The last leg was tedious as we hit the Sunday afternoon traffic on the A303, A34 and M4. The M25 was its usual car park not helped by various Triumphs breaking down as we discovered later!

We got back to Knebworth at 1911h on Sunday having done 1974 miles in 49 hours. Of the 133 starters, 14 fell by the wayside, making us the second oldest finisher. Our door to door mileage for the weekend was 2223 miles and we averaged 34.5 mpg.

I have to confess that it took us the best part of a week to recover, but we thoroughly enjoyed the challenge and plan to repeat it again on the next Run in 2018. The only modification being to the rotation of driving duties so that we get more sleep en route.

Our plan for 2017 - the car's 60th birthday and our 25th wedding anniversary - is to do the Paris to Prague Rally in June. This is a far more leisurely affair but does include some regularity sections which will be another new experience for us!

Ben and Vicky Freer





October Quiz Night (or not)

Geoff and I arrived early at the Nondescript club to set up for Roy's quiz night that had been postponed from an earlier occasion. It wasn't long before we realised that we didn't have a power cable long enough to reach the projector. We asked if they had one behind the bar, no luck there! However, just before Roy arrived an extension cable was found – everything was looking good now, until that is, Roy asked where the PC was.

This turned out to be the only quiz question of the evening, no PC no quiz. Fortunately Ian and Chris were present and were asked if they would mind doing a rerun of their presentation about their trip to the TR International meeting in Italy, originally given at the BBQ evening in September. Many of us that weren't present at the BBQ found it most amusing. It appeared that Ian managed to secrete 19 litres of his car's preferred engine oil under its bonnet in various plastic containers in any available space he could find; try this on a modern car! It appears that most of this oil was then liberally distributed via the engine over the roads of Europe during their trip. Following on from this an interesting discussion ensued regarding the upcoming election of TR Register Chairman and matters relating to the club in general. Here is a question for you, when are we going to have Roy's quiz? No prizes!

Tony Alderton

Tours, rallies
and events



The Departure Lounge - Classic Car Sundays

The Departure Lounge Cafe Basingstoke Road Alton Hampshire GU34 4BH

Our Vehicle Rallies held in the heart of Hampshire, just off the A339, The Departure Lounge Café is the ideal location for vehicle rallies. We offer ample parking and a large space to exhibit your vehicles; there are also refreshment and toilet facilities available. Our Classic Car Sundays, every first Sunday in the month: **May to September, cars arrive from 2.00pm**. This event may be extended to October, weather permitting.

Contact Simon Farley at simon@thedepartureloungecafe.co.uk or call 01420 80111.

2016 - A Classic Year in Pictures



2016 has been a good year for classic motoring events for me, so I thought I would share a few photographs with you.

The first major event kicked off in July with the Le Mans Classic. The traffic queues were horrendous as usual and the temperatures up into the 30s, which proved all too much for my poor old B V8, with the water temperature needle heading off the scale. Later that month I went with a chum to The Silverstone Classic, sadly not in a classic on this occasion.

In early September I had foolishly agreed to accompany this same friend in his Morgan to Italy. It was however, all in a good cause. This was a coast to coast wine edition classic car tour, organised by the Italian Rotary to raise funds for the victims of the recent earthquake. The start point was in Orbitello, driving east to San Benedetto del Tronto, taking in just a few wineries en route. At one point the route took us within just 20 to 30 km. north of the earthquake zone. In all we covered around 3,000 miles; I dare you to try this in a Morgan! There were some rare and exquisite cars on this very enjoyable event. The planning was good with road books and everything, however the execution was, shall we say typically Italian. On more than one occasion we were heading in one direction whilst meeting others travelling in the other, gesticulating as they passed, as only the Italians can.



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Three days after returning home from Italy I was off again with my wife Ros to New England, where we had hired a convertible mustang for our tour. Not a classic, but Ford have done a clever job on this model, taking many of the design cues from the original 1965 car.

We had several sightings of British classic cars in New England and whilst we were staying in Lincolnville, Maine, there just happened to be a classic car event for foreign cars i.e. European, with Volvo being the featured marque. Not surprisingly there were many British cars represented. More surprisingly though, was that my wife seemed happy to let me take time out for a look around and a natter with the owners.

Finally in October Robin Attack arranged the annual Crow Classic Car Run to Milton Abbas for lunch, via Compton Abbas airfield for a coffee break. This was a well organised run along quiet country roads through the pretty Dorset countryside. This event attracted several interesting cars. It's amazing what one small New Forest village can muster in terms of our motoring heritage.

Tony Alderton.



**Wessex
Committee
contact
numbers**



Treasurer	Roy Clough
Regalia Manager	Tony Alderton
Secretary	Geoff Glover
	Neil Winscom
	John Davies
Newsletter Editor	James Barnes



<https://www.facebook.com/wessextr>

Wessex Group Regalia

Tony Alderton has recently become our regalia manager and he has put together a new selection of items that can be purchased to promote your membership of the Wessex group. New members may wish to purchase an item or two and those of you that already have some, may need a replacement's. Shown below is the current range of items available bearing the Wessex group logo.



Low profile heavy cotton drill cap front and rear view



The favourite T shirt
(female)



Jersey crew neck T shirt (male)



Short sleeve polo shirt



Full zip fleece

Full details of sizes and colours available and the all important cost of each item is provided on the order form. Any other queries about regalia should be made to Tony Alderton



Sweatshirt Classic
80/20

TR Register Wessex Group Clothing Order Form

Name:	Contact number:	E-mail Address:
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Qty	Item	Size	Colour	Code	£
Please make cheques payable to: TR Register Wessex Group					Total

Send to: Tony Alderton, 9 Coppice Close, St. Ives, Ringwood, BH24 2LB

E-mail: tonycd.alderon@gmail.com

Item	Code	Colours / size	Price £
Low profile heavy cotton drill cap	BC05 8	Black, Bottle Green, Bright Royal Blue, Classic Red, French Navy, Light Grey, Natural, White.	8.50
The favourite T shirt (female)	BE07 6	Mid Grey, Berry (Raspberry), Black, Chocolate, Coral, Dark Grey, Maroon, Navy, Light Orange, Red, Light Blue, Purple, Royal Blue, White, Light Yellow.	8.50
		Size: S=8, M=10/12, L=14, XL=16	
Jersey crew neck T shirt (male)	CV00 1	Aqua, Mid Grey, Light Grey, Black, Red, Deep Teal, Olive, Evergreen, Maroon, Navy, Purple, Light Teal, White, Orange.	9.00
		Size: XS=35", S=37", M=39", L=42", XL=44", 2XL=46".	
Short sleeve polo shirt	BA30 6	Anthracite, Black, Light Blue, Bottle Green, Light Grey, Navy, Purple, Orange, Red, Royal Blue, Sand, White, Light Green, Brown, Yellow.	12.50
		Size: XS=34/36", S=36/38", M=38/40", L=41/42", XL=43/44", 2XL=45/47", 3XL=47/49", 4XL=49/51".	
Sweatshirt Classic 80/20	SS20 0	Black, Bottle Green, Burgundy, Deep Navy, Light Grey, Navy, Red, Royal Blue, Sky Blue, Yellow, White.	18.00
		Size: S=36/37", M=38/40", L=41/43", XL=44/46", 2XL=47/49".	
Full zip fleece	SS52 8	Black, Bottle Green, Deep Navy, Red, Royal Blue, Smoke.	29.00
		Size: S=35/37", M=38/40", L=41/43", XL=44/46", 2XL=47/49".	