



# NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2015

## Club AGM

It's that time again. Our AGM takes place on club night Monday 13th April. It's your chance to vote for club officials, or even put your name forward to help out on the committee.

We are always looking for new blood so if you want to help out please put your name forward and contact Chairman Mike Kent or Vice Chair Richard Huntley.

We are hoping for a really good turnout on the night so please come along and support your club!

## Committee Update

Hello everyone. 2015 is starting to get busy with plenty of shows and auto-jumbles filling up the weekends.

Committee members have also been discussing events and the annual show. Our last full meeting was at the end of January and very well attended. Aside from the usual housekeeping and administration items to do with running the club key items discussed were advance preparations for the show which will take place again at Newbury College with the preliminary date booked for Sunday August 9th - make sure that weekend is in your diary.



"Hurray! Meeting adjourned!"

Paperwork including invitation letters for exhibitors which will be sent out soon, plus booking forms and other documents were reviewed. We have updated the show poster and these will be available shortly. The committee decided for the first time in ages to revise the Public entry price with a flat entry charge of £6 per person, children under 14 free and £5 for concessions.

We also decided after a fair bit of discussion to drop the show plaques for 2015. We know this might be controversial but these are expensive items and not everyone wants them, indeed many other events are now restricting or dropping plaques for the same reason. The plan is to review this decision in 2016.

The other main areas of discussion were various club activities over the next months including a club outing to the Haines Motor Museum date to be confirmed, and the Skittles and Chips evening on March 23rd which may well have taken place by the time you read this.

In addition we are planning another Little Chef breakfast meet, which went well last year and the Federation Drive it Day which is confirmed for April 26th. We will also combine this with the Dave Mills memorial run. For new members Dave Mills is the original club founder who started our annual show 23 years ago. Richard Huntley and Paul Clayton are working out a suitable scenic run, so please watch out for information on this and all other events.

Finally if there are any items or ideas that you would like to put forward to the committee, including ideas for events or club night activities, please don't hesitate to collar one of us, or email [kents@mikekent.plus.com](mailto:kents@mikekent.plus.com) or [admin@classicvehicles.org.uk](mailto:admin@classicvehicles.org.uk). Bye for now...*Mike*

## Urban spaceman ...spotted



Local urban spaceman and beer man Steve Kirby spotted here getting to grips with soda blasting...

What's he building? ... you may well ask! Actually it's the fuel tank for his Morris Commercial LC3... and are those brand new white bowling trousers he's wearing or what?

## Insurance — insure a classic car

Thanks to Steve Kirby for spotting this one. A new comparison website for classic vehicle insurance - claiming to be the first dedicated to classic car insurance has started up recently - which may be of relevance if you are looking for a competitive insurance quote. This is not an endorsement by the club but it may be of interest. My own experience wasn't brilliant as it only returned 4 companies to insure my Triumph TR5 but that might be simply because it is early days and they are still building up relationships. None the less worth a punt... the site address is [www.insureaclassiccar.co.uk](http://www.insureaclassiccar.co.uk)

## Diary

**Saturday 7th March** — *Classic Commercial Enthusiasts Show, Three Counties Showground, Malvern*

**Sunday 8th March** — *Morris & Austin Day, Brooklands Motor Museum*  
[www.brooklandsmuseum.com](http://www.brooklandsmuseum.com)

**Sunday 8th March** — *Classic Car Breakfast Meet, The White Lion Antiques Centre, Hartley Wintney*

**Monday 9th March** — **CLUB NIGHT** – *Royal British Legion*

**Sunday 15th March** — **WBCVC Lunchtime Natter** – *The Castle Inn, Donnington*

**Sunday 22nd March** — *Classic Car Breakfast Meet, The White Lion Antiques Centre, Hartley Wintney*

**28th & 29th March** — *Practical Classics Restoration & Classic Car Show, NEC*

**Monday 6th April** — *Spring Vehicle Meet – Wyke Down*—**CANCELLED**

**Sunday 12th April** — *MG Era, Brooklands Museum.* [www.brooklandsmuseum.com](http://www.brooklandsmuseum.com)

**Sunday 12th April** — *24th Malvern Spring Classic Car Show*

**Sunday 12th April** — *Classic Car Breakfast Meet, The White Lion Antiques Centre, Hartley Wintney*

**Monday 13th April** — **AGM & CLUB NIGHT** – *Royal British Legion*

**Saturday 18th April** — **WBCVC Lunchtime Natter**, *The Starting Gate, Newbury*

**Saturday 18th April** — *Pride of Longbridge*

**Sunday 19th April** — *London Bus Museum Spring Gathering, Brooklands Museum*

**Sunday 16th April** — *Drive-It-Day – Details to follow*

**Sunday 16th April** — *Newbury 4x4 & Vintage Spares Day, Newbury Showground*

**Saturday 2nd May** — *Auto Italia Day at Brooklands Museum*

**Sunday 3rd May** — *HCVS 54th London to Brighton Run*

**Sunday 3rd May** — *Lambourn Spring Working, Lambourn Woodlands*

**Sunday 3rd May** — *Abingdon Air Show & Classic Car Display, Abingdon Airfield*

**Monday 4th May** — *Popham Classic Cars & Fly In, Popham Airfield*

**Sunday 10th May** — *Basingstoke Thorneycroft Festival of Transport, 23rd Anniversary Rally - WBCVC Club Stand*

**Sunday 10th May** — *Brooklands Spring Classic Breakfast*

## Tech Corner

# Why fit LED lights?



There are a number of reasons why you might want to convert to LED lights. Improving the brightness of existing lighting systems is one, or perhaps to add indicators to a vehicle that was never fitted with them before. In my case I needed to convert a US imported vehicle that was fitted with single light fitting to include side light, brake light and indicator. I already had UK spec lenses and although UK lamp units are available these would cost around £200 each. LED modules by comparison cost around £40 for the pair.



*Original red lens and light fitting (left) and an internal view showing single stop/tail bulb*

“pork pie” lamp and was small enough to install in my lamp. I was able to remove the old electrical connector from the lamp without damaging it. This would allow me to reverse the process in future.

As you can see the LEDs are very small (picture below). The ones on the top half of the unit glow AMBER, the ones below the divider glow RED with two supplies and two brightness levels (one for tail and one for brake lights) and the two at the very bottom edge (just visible) are WHITE and are intended for a number plate lamp.

My unit had four wires – Black (Earth), White (Indicator), Red (Tail) and Green (Stop). To install in the lamp I passed the wires through the hole left by removing the old connector. I used silicone to seal and secure the unit in the lamp. The horizontal divider can be trimmed depending on the depth of the light unit. Mine didn't require modification.



Connection to your wiring depends on the application. In my case I used bullet connectors to match the existing wiring, but you could solder the wires or use spade connectors too. The finished lamp was tested on the bench using a 9v PP3 battery.

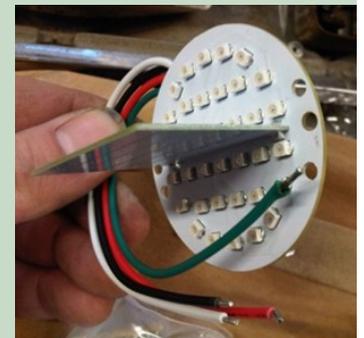
For my car I had to add an additional supply from the brake switch (since it was combined with the indicators) and more crucially I had to change the flasher relay. The original relay was designed to use conventional bulbs and failed to operate with the lower power being drawn by the LEDs. A replacement relay costing £4 was easily obtained.

So how long does it take? The whole job took me around 3 hours and saved the cost of replacement lamps. Of course there might be better ways to do this.

Alternative LED options might also work for you. A number of companies supply direct replacement “bulbs” which are basically the standard bayonet fitting but with LEDs in place of the filament. You will need to check availability for your vehicle, although most of the standard side and stop/tail light options are available.

Important Note: LEDs are polarity sensitive so ensure you order the correct type and wire them appropriately for your vehicle (i.e. negative earth or positive earth). Also LEDs are not as robust as traditional bulbs – it is important to keep them dry so they continue to work optimally. You may need to change the seals on your lamps or add sealant to the unit.

I would be happy to give advice based on my limited experience. *Richard Huntley*



## Diary continued

**Sunday 10th May** — Wallingford Classic Vehicle Rally & Parade.

[www.wallingfordcarrally.org.uk](http://www.wallingfordcarrally.org.uk)

**Sunday 10th May** — Classic Car Breakfast Meet, The White Lion Antiques Centre, Hartley Wintney

**Monday 11th May** — **CLUB NIGHT** – Royal British Legion

**Saturday 16th May** — **WBCVC Lunchtime Natter** – The Cottage, Upper Bucklebury

**16th & 17th May** — Beaulieu Spring AutoJumble

**16th & 17th May** — Bill Targett Memorial Steam & Vintage Show, Highbridge Farm, Highbridge Road, Eastleigh

**Sunday 17th May** — Gaydon Spring Classic & Cream Tea Run for vehicles over 20 years old

**Sunday 24th May** — The Hungerford Antique Arcade, WBCVC Classic Vehicle display

**Sunday 24th May** — Gaydon Classic Car Show

**Sunday 24th May** — Classic Car Breakfast Meet, The White Lion Antiques Centre, Hartley Wintney

**23rd, 24th & 25th May** — Enfield Pageant of Motoring, White Webbs Museum of Transport

**29th, 30th & 31st May** — Vintage & Nostalgia Show, Stockton park, Stockton, Wilts

## MG & Triumph Spares Day

Previously run as separate events I think this is the second year in which the MG and Triumph Spares Day organised by Carol Nash have been combined into a single event.



Held at Stoneleigh on Sunday 1st March it turned out to be an extremely busy and useful day and I managed to find a number of parts I needed and solutions to issues that have been holding up my project. A couple of us went from the club although I suspect others may have gone along. The organisers claimed 12,996 visitors on the day, up 22% on 2014. With 240 traders and club stands, next year could be well worth a visit too.

Spotted this super-charged MG single-seater, with very pronounced offset body-work... picture doesn't really do it justice. Presumably plenty of rear end grip



## Club Expo—Gaydon, 28th February

Six of us attended this years Club Expo on at The Heritage Motor Centre in Gaydon, an annual event enabling club representatives to attend talks to learn more about how to run vehicle clubs. It's also an opportunity to make useful contacts, pick up hints and tips or simply meet other representatives to help make their club a success.



Catching up with motoring legend Stuart

This year the event included presentations from Hagerty Insurance on classic car values, and David Whale, chairman of FBHVC (Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs) of which we are a member, discussing their manifesto for supporting historic vehicle ownership in the UK.

We also had talks on classic car theft prevention, social media for classic clubs, Social Road Runs, Auto Solos & Auto Tests, and the new Museum Collection Centre due to open Autumn 2015.



Got a story you want to share, information on something of interest, or a picture we could include? Email Matthew at [msspencer511@googlemail.com](mailto:msspencer511@googlemail.com)