



Est. 1980

# NEWSLETTER

**SEPTEMBER 2010**



# Chairman's Chat

I am sure that everyone feels much brighter now that St Swithen has, for this year at least been "once again" laid to rest and it has stopped raining albeit he extended his forty day threat by more than a week!

So at last we are to enjoy the remnants of summer, such as it is, although I do feel so sorry for the kids who return to their schools this week after spending the bulk of their summer holiday wearing "wellies". (The Leeds Liverpool Canal remains closed between Wigan and Gargrave - Water shortage!)

To follow under the heading "WHY DON'T THEY KEEP TO MGs?"

I was amazed to see that in spite of the worlds' financial catastrophe and in particular several European countries who are basically "boracic lint" little old Italy dug into their feeble remaining financial resources to fund a new vehicle for their police traffic department.



How about that then!

Yes it is a Lamborghini Gallardo Costs approx £200,000 and has a top speed of almost 200mph.



What a pity they couldn't find a force member who could drive it!

OK a bit of literary licence but it made me smile and also remember that the London Met Force had two of these on hire in 2007 goodness knows what they used them for.

Staying with Italy and their wonderful motorcars we are all aware of the phrase "spontaneous combustion" if I remember correctly it's to do with carbon dioxide CO<sub>2</sub> not having enough O (oxygen) to exist in that form and becoming CO (carbon monoxide) and in its' effort to obtain more O (oxygen) by pinching it from its surroundings creates excessive heat and subsequently sets on fire , as in haystacks and things like that.

Well – Guess what!

If you can afford £170,000 you will be able to purchase the new Ferrari 458 Italia and already this year "5" have spontaneously combusted during use.

That would be embarrassing driving down Strand Road on a Saturday morning wouldn't it?

Ferrari say that it is caused by the bonding glue securing a plastic panel in the rear wheel arch melting and igniting because of its proximity to the exhaust - personally I would stay with the spontaneous combustion idea, after all they do resemble a haystack to some degree! Especially when they are on fire!

## NOW FOR TOYOTA AND NISSAN

I am aware that some members may be persuaded by the green agenda when considering modern motorcars although enjoying driving proper cars and ultimately greener cars in their leisure time in the shape of good old MGs.

The "golf carts" currently supplied by Toyota (Prius) and next years Nissan (Leaf) are seemingly getting bad publicity because they are at the root of a 100% increase in low speed accidents involving pedestrians going about their daily routine of going shopping at Asda. Seemingly the old dears cannot hear them approaching and a moments distraction caused by a "non straight line trolley" and "whoomph" we're off to Chorley Hospital. Toyota have been aware of this problem for some time and are now in a position to do something about it in the shape of fitting a speaker under the bonnet which produces sound of some sorts at low speeds as a warning to pedestrians and it is now available at a price of £97 excluding vat and fitting. This sounds excessive pricewise and I wondered, as a Club if we could edge our way into the market especially before the launch of next years Nissan Leaf with a suitable product that would be both effective and a pleasure to listen to.

## Chairman's Chat cont...

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To this end I consider we should amass our total technical knowledge and somehow "bottle" Jeff Reids' GROWL and package it for easy fitting in front and rear lighting units. Any offers of sincere interest should be forwarded to Technical Support care of Andy Schultz.

Or we could have a man walking in front with a red flag!

TA-TA (or goodbye) to the British motor car manufacturing industry.

Jaguar car manufacture is booming since the Company suffered a tandouri acquisition by the Indian organisation Tata.

So I am at a loss to understand why their American customers get a far better deal than their (special relationship) allies across the pond ie the British when purchasing the XJ model?

I am reliably informed that the US dollar equivalent purchase price is £46,000 with a warranty of five years and 50,000 miles whilst in the UK it sells at £54,000 with a three years warranty and 30,000 miles. Maybe it could be discussed at a formal level between Monica Lewenski and Edwina Currie and put to their former "mentors" with the hope that such senior statesmen could persuade their senior successors to consider, at least, a fair trading agreement common to both of us and resolve this discrepancy to a "moral" conclusion.

### FACTUAL THINGS

As Bill & Janet are once again getting their knees brown on the Greek Island of Ouzo I offered to be at Botany Bay for 6:45pm on Tuesday 31st August to issue route sheets for our late summer evening run terminating at The Welcome for a Club night natter & noggin.

At 7:15pm all of the 16 route sheets available had been distributed and I was 5 short such that a bit of convoying became necessary – in other words a spectacular turn out of 21 cars all of which managed to get underway before Botany Bay almost became the penal colony for which it was once famed following the arrival of "the management" who were ready and waiting to lock the exit gates.

Smiles and apologies resolved the issue with a promise that should we decide to use the venue in future we would be willing to pay a

charge to "the management" for parking costs.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the route with good summer evening weather to help us along – so thanks to B & J/ B for all their efforts.

It should be noted that the convoying proceeded without any difficulties but there seemed to be a problem with several of those who had individual detailed route sheets, in that a long cul- de- sac had to be negotiated for some reason, which I do know is clearly signed and certainly not included in the route! "Confucius say man with route book in hand will be happy not to follow Sam Cohen and his Mum"

### The NTBHWE North York Moors Tour 24,25,26th June 2011

#### UPDATE

The Mallyan Spout Hotel in Goathland had offered to hold on reservation all of their available 20 rooms for our event until mid September and at this time I am delighted to report that all of those rooms have been requested by members therefore the hotel is fully booked –subject to any cancellation. I can now commence with detailed work on routes and other activities to amuse us for the extended weekend and as usual the format will consist of a super driving/navigation Friday to get us there, a non driving (well a bit) day on Saturday with a novel twist! followed by a Grand Tour of the North York Moors and Coast on the Sunday when we will be joined by members of The Ryedale and York MG Club. All yet in the cooking pot. Final costs are also still in the pot but will be issued very shortly and deposits will be requested in the new year.

#### ANNUAL DINNER AND AWARDS

Most arrangements are now finalised with The Farington Lodge Hotel for our event on Saturday 4th December – a confirmation deposit has been paid to the Hotel and menu choices will be included in the October newsletter together with a request for payment in full which will be at £27.50 per person.

## Chairman's Chat cont...

### COMING UP

#### SUNDAY 19th SEPTEMBER

Let us all pray and hope for good weather for The Lancashire Lanes Run which will be with us in just a few days time.

The Lanes Committee, to their credit have put together a brilliant days MG entertainment which will be supported by a turn out of 80 cars, both members and visitors to celebrate our Club's 10th Anniversary of the event and offer our support to St Catherine's Hospice . Even at this late stage, if anyone is free on the day and not joining the run please contact Julie who will be grateful for your assistance with help in the day's organisation and control.

#### TUESDAY 28th SEPTEMBER

Club night - early evening run to Christians Museum of old cars at Banks Southport. See Micks' inclusion re arrangements.

#### TUESDAY 26th OCTOBER

Club night – Arrangements are under way for a Guest Speaker to entertain us at our usual venue The Welcome.

### AND IN CLOSING

#### SATURDAY 4th SEPTEMBER

We were invited to join with the Blackpool TVR Club at their two day event at North Shore.

A super presentation of some 200 TVRs and I think, consisting of every model they ever built.

The Saturday involved static displays and Sunday was devoted to a competition sprint along a section of the inner promenade.

I am still awaiting feedback on whether Jeff Reid or one of the Schultzs took the award but I declined entering mainly because I would have needed a "MRSA" licence (or something like that) and I don't consider that the TA would have been fair competition for the TVRs.

The super attraction was Graham and Julies updated "Dizzy" or The Bloodhound SSC. With a full team in attendance, everyone was leafleted and verbally informed by the resident experts as to what it was all about and how it was going to push the world land speed record on to 1000mph.- A magnificent display.



Bloodhound at TVR Blackpool

I also saw this which I am told will be available to take part in next years "tug o' war" at Andys on the Auto Test night, should this become an annual event. Sam and Graham beware!



Bill

# Secretary's Scribbles

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I received some good news earlier this week regarding the club's oldest member – Don Dixon. As you are all aware, Don has been ill for some time, and in the last few days I received the news that Doctors have advised him that he can start driving once again. It's good to hear that you are on the mend, Don, and we look forward to seeing you back down at the club in the very near future.

I was listening to the radio yesterday and was interested to learn that a driving survey has recently been conducted. The survey suggested that on average, an argument starts just 22 minutes into a car journey (22 minutes - I wish. These people have obviously never been in a car with Rosie). More than half of couples admit that they spend the remainder of the trip not talking to each other. Disagreements about directions and getting lost top the list of trigger points closely followed by driving too quickly or too closely to the car in front.

Now, don't ever say that I'm not topical - I've done a little bit of research on your behalf on the Popemobile. The vehicle, a 5ltr V8 with an internal oxygen supply lasting up to 90 minutes, is based on a Mercedes M Class sports utility vehicle. The Pope enters through a rear door and ascends several steps. After sitting in his chair, he is elevated up into the glass "room" by a hydraulic lift, allowing him to be more easily seen. In addition to the driver, there is room for one passenger (usually a security agent) in the front of the vehicle. The vehicle's security features include 3mm bulletproof glass and armour plating. It has a 0 - 60 time of 6 seconds and a top speed of 160 mph (70 mph with flat tyres). A former Popemobile (a converted Rangerover), which was used during the last Popes visit in 1982 sold at auction recently. It had just 11000 miles and sold for £37,000.

Talking about buying and selling, how's this for a bit of business – 12 months ago Sam Cohen bought a used caravan for £900. After using it extensively during the year, last month he had the cheek to advertise it for sale for £1500 (by my reckoning that's a 66% mark up on what he paid for it), and unbelievably he

sold it the very next day. Would you buy a used caravan from this man. If Mark Blennerhassett is interested, Sam (the shark) Cohen is available to pass on selling tips – at the right price.

Now, how spooky is this, on 28th September 1985, I was busy attending my brothers wedding. Therefore, if you work it out, in just over a week, he will be celebrating his silver wedding anniversary (25 yrs). Nothing unusual about that you might think. Until you learn that on the same day over in Lostock Hall, a very young Mr Andrew Shultz also happened to be attending a wedding - his own to the lovely Carole. Quite a coincidence, well, this is where it gets spooky, because also on the same day over in Southport, a certain Mr Roger Schofield was also doing the right thing and making an honest woman of the lovely Elizabeth. And this is where it gets even spookier, because while Andy and Carole honeymooned in Grassmere, Roger and Elizabeth were just 3 miles away, honeymooning in Bowness. Congratulations to you all, although I must say Carole, I cant help thinking that you could have done so much better.

## What's coming up:-

Sept 28th Mick Bambers run to Christians Motor Museum at Banks, see article later in the newsletter (note the early start time).

Oct 26th – Annual quiz

Nov 5th – Bonfire incl' Hotpot Supper and Fireworks. Please let any member of the committee have your names and money £5.00p/p at Septembers club night so that we know how many people to cater for.

## Kevin

And finally..... wartime golf rules at Richmond Golf Club...

British 'phlegm' was never better illustrated than during 1940; as witnessed by this calm notice.

## RICHMOND GOLF CLUB

### TEMPORARY RULES. 1940

1. Players are asked to collect Bomb and Shrapnel splinters to save these causing damage to the Mowing Machines.
2. In Competitions, during gunfire or while bombs are falling, players may take cover without penalty for ceasing play.
3. The positions of known delayed action bombs are marked by red flags at a reasonably, but not guaranteed, safe distance therefrom.
4. Shrapnel and/or bomb splinters on the Fairways, or in Bunkers within a club's length of a ball, may be moved without penalty, and no penalty shall be incurred if a ball is thereby caused to move accidentally.
5. A ball moved by enemy action may be replaced, or if lost or destroyed, a ball may be dropped not nearer the hole without penalty.
6. A ball lying in a crater may be lifted and dropped not nearer the hole, preserving the line to the hole, without penalty.
7. A player whose stroke is affected by the simultaneous explosion of a bomb may play another ball from the same place. Penalty one stroke.

# Editorial

Reminder 1- Andy and Carole will open their doors on 5th November for our bonfire party, which has been added to our events list. There will be a charge of £5 a head to cover costs of the entertainment etc., including a hot pot supper – kids go free. Please don't bring your own fireworks, but if you have any old wood for the bonfire, you can drop it off at the Schulz estate prior to the event. It would be very helpful if you could let a committee member know that you and how many in your party are coming so that an appropriate number of hotpots can be prepared, and how much we'd have to spend on the entertainments.

Reminder 2 – club subscriptions are due in by October club night. The £15 sub covers member and family, and cheques can be sent to Gordon Mallett at 28, Northwood Close, Burnley BB12 0JR, or you can give cash or cheque to any of the committee. Please make cheques payable to Preston & District MGEC, or P&D MGEC if your pen's running out We'll soon be canvassing for the 2011 club committee – as far as I know so far, the current committee are prepared to continue, but fresh blood is always welcome. It seems that daughter Rachel and I have been producing the club newsletter for decades, so if anybody feels like taking on the job with a fresh approach, we'd be happy to hand over the mantle.

The picture below reminded me of the Isle of Man ferry, and might stop Alan Fowler whingeing about the speed bumps at Tockholes that we sent you through on the way to Autopia!



For Sale - Clark MIG PRO 90 mig welder including gas bottle and large 5 Kg drum of welding wire, cost £200 from Machine Mart, hardly used. Reduced to £65 or best offer, contact me.

## Bill B

## Calendar of Events for 2010

Date	Club Event	Time	Start / Meet
Tue 28 Sep	Christians Museum Run	18.30	Euxton Railway Station
Tue 26 Oct	Quiz Night	20.00	Welcome Tavern
Fri 5 Nov	Bonfire Party	19.00	Schultz Estate
Tue 30 Nov		20.00	Welcome Tavern
Sat 4 Dec	Annual Dinner	19.30	Farington Lodge

Other events may be added or details changed during the year.

# **Club night – 28th September**

**Visit to a fabulous collection of motoring memorabilia and vintage vehicles**

We have been fortunate to be able to arrange a visit to one of the best collections of motoring memorabilia in the area. This is Derek Christian's collection at Banks near Southport and it includes 5 or 6 Rolls Royce and Bentleys.

There is also a collection of elderly motor bikes.

There will be light refreshments available during the visit, specifically tea, coffee and biscuits.

For those who can finish work early, there will be a short route produced starting from the Park & Ride car park near to the junction of the A581 and A49 (Balshaw Lane and Wigan Road) The car park is part of the railway station at Euxton and is 200 metres from the junction just mentioned.

Start time between 18.30 and 18.45

For those who cannot escape early, the address is

**Derek Christian  
52 Station Road  
Banks  
PR9 8BB  
From 19.30**

## **Club Regalia**

**The following last few items are currently available ex stock.**

**They are :-**

**2 Rugby shirts (Large & Ex. Large)  
2 green Polo shirts (Large)  
2 white T-shirts (Large)  
Several baseball caps**

**If you have any requirements that are not available ex-stock, please e-mail [mick@mcbamber.com](mailto:mick@mcbamber.com) or ring or text to 07730 435929 to place an order.**

**Confirmation of the style of garments that are available together with the current prices are listed on the club web-site.**

# Bala 2010

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Having arrived at Pen-y-Bont campsite in Bala, Ray was setting up our caravan and soon realised that we had a technical problem - we had no electric in our caravan. Solution - technical support - Andy Shultz to the rescue. Ray having spent 20 minutes trying to find out why it would not work – solution - Mr Shultz walks into our van pressing the “ON” button and then walks out. Very embarrassing for Ray, our current “technical support officer.” It was very pleasant to then chill out with a glass of wine at Bob and Carole’s motorhome.

On Sunday, the Shultz’s – including Mr Rio Shultz, The Dorans and ourselves had a wonderful time off -roading with the Land Rover experience team in Bala forest.

It was great to see Jeff Reid and family, who joined us from their holiday in Coniston.

Highlights included mud seeping into the interior of Kevin’s Disco, and Rosie shouting “I don’t like this Kevin!! It’s too steep.”

We had a great day out, with no damage, apart from Kevin’s diff lock light on his dash not going out. Solution - Mr Shultz knocking lever out of diff lock - light out - Fixed. New name for Kevin - Diff lock Kev.

Ray did not return back to the caravan as he spent 3 hours valeting the Land Rover with Sam returning it to its former gleaming condition. Not a speck of mud to be seen.

Mysteriously, half of Kevin’s disco was cleaned in the night. Some say Mark and Karen did it in the night!!

We were all exhausted on Monday after a hard day in the forest. Ray decided to have a little snooze in his van – when big bad Kevin and Rosie banged on the window to wake him up.

Revenge was due.

Solution - Sam decided it would be very funny to tie strap the zips together on Kevin’s tent. Unfortunately they were not in it at the time. What a shame!!!

It was hilarious watching Kevin trying to puzzle out how to enter his tent.

Wednesday – lovely day on lake Bala. Graham squeezed – and we mean – SQUEEZED, himself into a tiny wet suit and showed off his kayaking skills. Ray showed off his shower cap all the way down the lane to the lake. What a pretty sight! It was still a good job he was wearing it – as Kevin gave him a good soaking for singing “ ROW ROW ROW THE BOAT” all the way up and down the lake!

We all got together for a lovely meal out on Wednesday evening at the local pub in Bala, thanks to Graham and Julie for choosing the venue.

Unfortunately, Bob and Carole were leaving the next day, so this was the last night we would all be together.

Thursday – Sam led convoy through some lovely scenery to Lake Vyrnwy where a pleasant lunch was had overlooking the lake.

All in all – through a mixture of sunshine and showers and lots of laughs – a great time was had by all

## **Lynda, Ray & Sam Cohen**

# Committee, Contacts & Useful Information



Honorary President      Jeff Reid

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## Committee

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All articles are to be sent to the editor by the 15th of the month. The Newsletter will be published and emailed in .pdf format or posted at the end of each month in time for club night.

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