

TOP MARQUE

The Newsletter of the Austin Healey Club Thames Valley Centre

Winter is here again and no doubt your precious baby is locked away in temporary hibernation. For me it's time to do a little maintenance. Change that sticking overdrive solenoid, put a high torque starter motor and maybe even treat my leather seats with some leather feed.

So what did your Centre do this year? Well we had a couple of long weekends away, a trip to France and several day trips. But more of this anon.

Our first trip of the year was the "Drive It Day" event to Bicester Airfield. Bicester Airfield is UK's first park for the restoration, storage and enjoyment of vintage and classic cars, motorcycles and aeroplanes.



There are 348 acres of a historic 1920s RAF bomber station, with restored redbrick buildings, hangars and tree-lined avenues packed with classic cars and bikes.

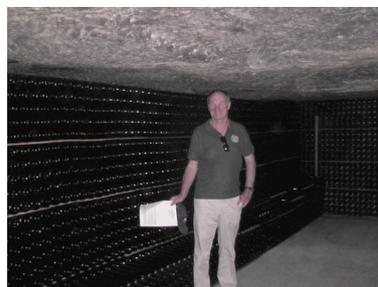
In May, the brave had a trip to the Donnington Park - it was really not the best of weather. This is a fairly new race meet for classic cars and there's a huge amount of work going on there so one to look out for in the future.



June we had a trip to the Robert Lewis collection. This fine collection of some 50 classic cars is not open to the public and we were privileged to be invited.



Later in June a select group headed off for a tour of northern France's chateaux, visiting St Malo, Caen, and the Loire Valley—a chance to put the foot down in glorious surroundings and sample some of the local produce.



In July, we had a few days in the Peak District. The highlights were a trip to Chatsworth House,



Arkwright's Mill and tours around the Ladybower and Derwent dams—best known for their "Dambuster" practice runs in WW2.



In July we attended the Henley traditional boat rally - which is becoming a regular day out, and a mid-week trip to the New Forest and the Beaulieu Motor Museum.

September we supported the Kop Hill Climb charity event. This year they had a spectacular collection of historic race cars running the hill including the awesome Napier-Railton of Brooklands fame and the 1922 Isle of Man TT winning Sunbeam Grand Prix Car.



C'mon your club needs you !!
Why not give us a call and join us enjoying our cars.
Visit our website at www.austin-healey-club.co.uk

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