



Newsletter October 2016

Introduction

September was a quieter month for motoring activities as we neared the close of the show season. We did get out and about a few times, though – some of us met up at The Blackthorn Classic Car Show, and we had a guest speaker join us for the Natter. And lastly we had a few members attend The Kop Hill Climb.

Blackthorn Classic Car Show.

This was the second year for this event, and the organisers hoped to exceed the 200 vehicles that attended last year. The day fortunately remained dry, but was overcast for most of the time and rather chillier than it had been for some time. My BGT V8 has not been well recently, with noisy tappets, and I hadn't used it for a few weeks, so when I started it to take it for its MOT, I was dismayed that it wouldn't fire on all cylinders and was pretty sick all round. Anyway, I took it in for the test (Ian, who does my MOTs, said the misfire wouldn't matter since he would only fail it on emissions if he couldn't see the back of the car for smoke!). Meanwhile, I contacted a chap I know in Steeple Claydon who is very familiar with the Rover/Buick V8 engine, and he agreed to have a look at it. He eventually ended up replacing the hydraulic tappets and stripping down the carbs, but succeeded in making it run much better than it has for a while. (His name is Graham Coles, and I can pass his details to anyone who is looking for a good mechanic.) I only got the car back the afternoon before the Show, so decided to give it a run and take it to Blackthorn.



Some of the cars on show

The turnout was excellent, with well over 200 vehicles on show, of every shape, size and age. Les Harris, a local collector, had entered lots of his cars (I counted 17) and they made a magnificent show on their own – he was born and raised in Blackthorn, and likes to support local events (we borrowed three of his cars for our local pub Classic Car day in August, if you remember). I ran into Dave Barton, there with his RV8, Ian Canning with his Sebring MGB. Brian Rainbow and Roger Withers were there with their wives and MGBs, enjoying an outing before driving around France, and returning in time for Kop Hill. Because the show is so local



Les Harris' Cadillac Coupe de Ville to me, I kept on bumping into neighbours, friends and people I knew, so it was a very sociable day out! The event as well as well-attended, was also well organised, with a choice of



.... And Blower Bentley



Jackie with the Withers and the Rainbows and their MGs refreshment facilities and craft stalls as well as the vehicles. This show now seems to be going from strength to strength and could be a fixture for the calendar, and one I think we



Me and Dave admire a nice MGB



Superb Chicago Gangster Buick should consider attending as a club in future years?



Not all of them were shiny!!

September Natter.

Guy Lachlan from Classic Oils was on-hand at the September Natter to talk to us about Classic Lubrication - Dave Barton and I had met Lachlan at Blackthorn the previous day – he had been there with a lovely old trials special, and so we had a good idea about what he was going to say. Classic Oils is a company which, as its name suggests, specialises in automotive lubrication, and has bases in Aylesbury and Bicester Heritage. Lachlan co-owns the company, and is very knowledgeable about the products they sell.

Lachlan explained the background to the requirement for automobile lubrication and its



chemistry. He went into the changing nature of lubrication as the development of engine technology progressed, and how this puts a strain on the demands made of oils, and how the constituents of oils have had to change to meet these demands, in engines, gearboxes and suspensions, and how the interval between oil changes has lengthened as the technology, both of the mechanical components and of the oil itself has developed.

The discussion and the Questions and Answers that followed were lively and informative, and all attendees agreed that they went away with a much better understanding of the subject. Lachlan also expressed the view, which I have held for a long time, that we classic car owners who do a low annual mileage tend to over-service our cars, since the oils and lubricants are a long way from losing their optimum performance when we replace them!! He is also a big fan of DOT5 brake fluid in older cars, which I again agree with.

So a big thank you to Lachlan for a most enjoyable and worth-while evening. I shall certainly be visiting him for the oil for my next change. His premises in Aylesbury is 10A Bessemer Crescent, off Rabans Lane, www.classic-oils.net.

Kop Hill Climb.

This event is on for two days, so I went along on the Sunday. I hadn't been to this event before, but it seemed as though everybody else had the same idea as me as I joined on the queue at the approaches to Princes Risborough and slowly made my way through the town and into the public car park – I was late buying my ticket, so the display areas in the paddock were full – but eventually I parked up and made my way to the Hill. I must say the organisation was very good, and everything went smoothly, if slowly. As I had suspected, a huge number of participants and spectators had turned up to take part or to see the cars and bikes driving the Hill.



Rare BMW 328 at the start



MG waiting to go

I made my way to the start point to enjoy the spectacle of the vehicles beginning their climb. And there was a mouthwatering collection of cars from the very old to the very new (boy racers taking their latest EuroHotBox up the Hill in clouds of tyre smoke – Numpties). From there I went along to the paddock to admire the cars assembled there – and what a collection! Every conceivable make and model, and some I've never heard of before. I even ran into Clive, who was preparing to take his MGB up the Hill.

After strolling around the paddock and admiring the cars, I had a bite of lunch and then wandered back to a point halfway up the Hill to watch the action, which was really quite



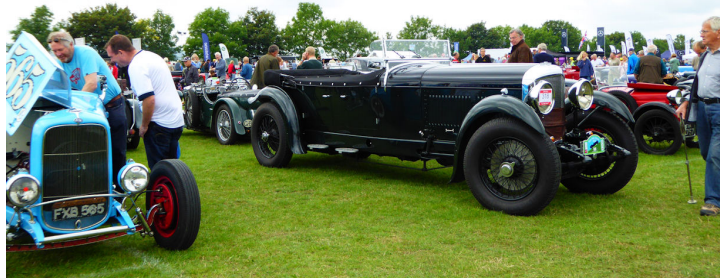
stirring.

Jaguar SS100 on the Hill

Line-up of TRs heading for the start



A thoroughly enjoyable event, and one I will return to in future years, but I will turn up earlier, as it gets really crowded later on!



8-litre Bentley in the paddock



Gorgeous Hispano-Suiza

Upcoming Events

Monday 3rd October – Natter Night.

Again at our normal venue the Five Arrows. We have a visiting speaker for this natter too – Colin Gent will be talking about an epic journey to Bangkok in an MG TD – so not to be missed!

Monday 7th November – Natter Night.

Our normal Natter at the Five Arrows in Waddesdon, at 20.00.

Monday 5th December – Natter Quiz.

This is our annual quiz, at the Five Arrows at 20.00. Pete and Lesley Thomas will be officiating, so remember to organise fish for your tea.....

That's it for now,

Adrian Bennett



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