

# Austin 3 litre owners club

January-February 2023





# Neil's Bit

Hello everyone

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2023.

Firstly apologies for the lateness of the newsletter. Those close to me will be aware that I have been rather unwell for a while and the last few months have been particularly challenging. Sleeping for 12 hours a day and still trying to work is not easy and doesn't leave much time for anything else. As with such things I eventually pretty much came to a stop physically and to a degree mentally. Concentration being a big challenge for a little while. The good news is I seem to be on the up again, normal service has been resumed and no more hospital visits needed until May. Yes it looks like you are all stuck with me for a bit longer yet.

I am rather short of things to include in the newsletter now, I have held back a 'how to do' technical bit for the next newsletter. If you have anything you would like to see in print in our newsletter I would be very grateful for it. Stories, photo's, anything you would like to share is always welcome and interesting. We all gain by sharing our experiences of owning one of these amazing cars.

As previously mentioned I was thinking about reviving 'Austins at the Ace' the show we used to do at the Ace Cafe in London pre pandemic. I had no replies about this at all so I have not booked it. It was a bit variable with numbers of attendees but we have had some good numbers of cars at past shows. Some other very nice Austins in attendance too so it may be worth another thought at some point in the future.

One show which is gaining in attendance is the new BMC day Near Corby. Does anyone fancy going to this? It had just started just as covid descended on us but has made a good recovery since. I will get some club space booked anyway but an idea of numbers wishing to attend would be good. It is on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> of August at New lodge farm NN17 3DU. Camping is available if you want to make a weekend of it but this will need to be booked with the farm directly.



The photo above is a sneak preview of Neill and Louise Hackman's car. The amount of work involved and the level of detail delivered is huge on this car. I am really looking forward to seeing the car once finished.

We continue to grow as a club and have the following new members to give a warm welcome to. John Stephans, Vincent Quigley, and from New Zealand John Rapley and Jacob Bootsma.

I hope you all enjoy the club and all it brings.

The car gracing our front cover belongs to club member Matthew Collings.

My lateness with this newsletter means I aim to get the next one out around mid April.

Happy 3 Litre-ing

Kind regards

*Neil*

# CGU gets reassembled

Neil Kidby



Over the Christmas period of 2012, CGU was re-sprayed. Despite my many months of work there was still about 3 weeks of work by three guys there to get the surface as they wanted it before it was wheeled into the paint oven for its final coats of Blue Royale being applied. The size of the car meant the car was painted in two stages, the doors, bonnet and boot were painted separately to the shell and then reassembled once the paint had been baked on.



After the body shop had finished their work, reassembled the outer panels and carried out a final polish, the car was duly collected and the enormous task of reassembly began. I restored the original number plates that were fitted when the car was new and made replica dealer stickers for them.



In February I collected the remanufactured laminated front windscreen from Leamington Spa. These are organised by our friends in LOCI and are an excellent item, much safer than the original toughened item. I opted for top tinted screen, once this was fitted the car was deemed ready for its first mot in 9 years. It was a very nice feeling to be driving the car again for the first time in 15 years. The sounds, smells and driving experience had remained the same despite the passage of time. With an mot pass issued I headed off home feeling very pleased with my progress. Two days later I was on a photo shoot with Practical Classics Magazine, now that's another story.





I think with any restoration realistic goals need to be set on progress. Looking back I set myself an unrealistic time frame with CGU. I wanted to take the car on the annual Ipswich to Felixstowe run which is held each year in May. That gave me 13 months to transform the sad remains that were transported back to Suffolk pictured bottom left, to roadworthy condition in 13 months. From receiving the car back to the picture top left took 11 months. I was very determined to reach my goal though.



As with any restoration its wise to keep an eye on costs, fortunately I can do anything needed myself but in this case as noted I elected to have a professional respray. This was the biggest single expense of the restoration. Over the last 10 years I have continued to improve the car gradually. I have kept a loose eye on how much I have spent and currently it is easily enough to buy a half decent Rolls Royce Silver Shadow!

The top photograph was taken on a photo-shoot for Practical Classics magazine and was one the first outings the car did after it passed its MOT. A suitable quiet road was found and writer Neil Cambell was driving the photography car with Photographer Matt Howell hanging out of a car window taking the action shots. An interesting experience to say the least but what a wonderful photograph. The car performed well and Neil was impressed with the quality of the ride. The roads around Flatford Mill are largely "B" roads and as such can be a bit uneven but the old girl soaked up the bumps with ease. Pictured right was taken on the promenade at Felixstowe. My point to aim at during the restoration was to get to this show and this was achieved, on a car that some people said was beyond any reasonable restoration.





# Showtime

Our favourite show will soon be up on us once again. The lovely venue of the Annual BMC day is held at the British Motor Museum at Gaydon in Warwickshire and this year is being held on July 9<sup>th</sup>. This is by far our most well attended show. This year is looking to be our biggest ever turn out of club cars. I have asked for the same pitch we had last year, it was a great place to display and we should have enough space for up to 15 cars. I have had a rough number of 10 cars possibly attending already! For those of you who have never been to the BMC show, it is a fantastic day with a very good range of all things BL and BMC on display. The museum is excellent and has good facilities and a nice affordable restaurant. Access last year was greatly improved so the queues to get in are now just a distant memory. I have requested 7 car passes which is the maximum they will give me for free, if anyone has their own private entry pass they can still park on the club pitch so its no big deal really. Each pass has 2 wristbands which will get you into the museum.

Please let me know if you wish to attend so I can make a plan for the day. If all goes to plan there will be some very special entries this year.

Pictured at the bottom of the page is our magnificent line up from the show in 2022.



**Plus guests including various classic cars and classic campervans**

The MKIV Zephyr & Zodiac Owners Club Summer Rally will once again be held at the Great Central Railway (GCR) at their Quorn & Woodhouse Station. This will be a great opportunity to see some of these big old Fords (built 1966-1972) and the last models to use the Zephyr/Zodiac name. Free entry to the Goods Yard to view the cars. Our members will be on site the whole weekend so please come and see us for a chat. Show area is in the goods yard at Quorn & Woodhouse station. There are cafes, toilets and a real ale shed all on site.

Visit the GCR website for more details:  
[www.gcrailway.co.uk](http://www.gcrailway.co.uk)

**Zephyr  
Mk IV  
Zodiac  
Owners Club**

**MKIV Club Organiser: Paul Russell 07711 202641  
If no answer please leave a message**



Club member Dave Gardner is also a Ford MK IV Zodiac owner. Dave has invites us along to their summer rally in July. Any 3 Litre owners wishing to attend will be made most welcome. Contact Dave at [three\\_litres\\_dave@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:three_litres_dave@hotmail.co.uk)



# LOCI Annual Rally

Our friends at LOCI are having their annual rally at the delightful Chateau Impney this year. This is a delightful location and you will be assured of a warm welcome. The entry form as you see is here but I can send it by PDF if you would prefer it that way, just let me know. Our cars sharing some sunshine with their closest cousins will be very pleasant. (I have my fingers crossed for sunshine)



**LANDCRAB OWNERS CLUB INTERNATIONAL  
ANNUAL RALLY**  
HELD IN ASSOCIATION WITH **THE MORRIS MINOR OWNERS CLUB**  
Chateau Impney, Droitwich, Worcestershire WR9 0BN  
**1st and 2nd July 2023**



## ENTRY FORM

Entries may be made by post and paid for by cheque using this form

Please use this form for one car only. Photocopies will be accepted.

### Your Details (Please use BLOCK CAPITALS)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No. \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Club Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_

### Vehicle Details

Make \_\_\_\_\_

Registration No. \_\_\_\_\_

Year (if Classic) \_\_\_\_\_

### Judging

Judging will not take place this year, however, Footman James are organising a concours competition. If you would like more details please tick here and your details will be passed to Footman James.

### Members' Car Boot Sale

There is no charge for a car boot pitch (length of car)  
(Sales are restricted to vehicle related parts, and automobilia/transport related collectables)

<b>Rally Entry Fee Per car (LOCI members)</b>	<b>£18.00</b>	<b>£</b>
Pre-booked entry fee includes a rally souvenir		
<b>Rally Entry Fee Per car (non members)</b>	<b>£20.00</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Saturday Night Entertainment*</b>		
	Adults at <b>£8.00</b>	Children over 12 at <b>£5.00</b>
		5-12 years at <b>£2.50</b>
No of tickets required		<b>£</b>
<b>75th Anniversary Rally booklet</b> to be collected at the Rally		<b>£5.00</b>
		<b>£</b>
<b>Camping</b>	Fri   Sat   Sun	Total Nights
Camping <b>£9.00</b> per night, per pitch		
Tents, Caravans and Motorhomes Pitches are 20' x 20'. If you require more space please book 2 pitches		
<b>Classics for sale</b>	Number of Cars	<b>£15.00</b>
		<b>£</b>
<b>Carbon offset scheme £3.00 per car (optional)**</b>		<b>£</b>
<b>I ENCLOSE</b>		
A) a cheque made payable to <b>Landcrab Owners Club</b> for the total amount of:		<b>£</b>
B) an A5 stamped addressed envelope (half the size of this sheet)		

### CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES: 11 JUNE 2023

Please send your completed entry form to:

**Clive Serrell, 401 Birmingham Road, Bordesley, Redditch B97 6RH**

Please ensure that a stamped addressed envelope is enclosed with your entry.

\* Due to the live band dogs are NOT permitted in the marquee on Saturday night. Entry to entertainment only. No food provided

\*\* For this year's Rally we have teamed up with FBHVC and Tree-V to allow members to carbon balance their travel to the event and help the MMOC demonstrate the green credentials of the Club. If you chose to make a voluntary donation via the application form, then the FBHVC and Tree-V will ensure your emissions are balanced out through the planting of new woodland here in the UK. Members will also receive an 'event media pack' at the rally.

Your details will be held on a secure database and will not be disclosed to any other member, organisation or third party. Details provided are used for MMOC administration purposes only. By completing this form you understand that your details will be used for this purpose.



# Going Spare

## New heater matrix

One item which is not available as a new part is our heater matrix. Even if one were to appear these days it is now likely to have been sitting around for 50 years so a perfect useable example would be very rare indeed. Enjoying warm air from my own cars heater gave a misty windscreen and the tell tale sweet smell of antifreeze. After 54 years it seems a small leak has appeared. I have had a new heater matrix made before for a club members car I recommissioned a few years so its a know quantity. Club member and good friend Kev Turner let me have an old heater unit to use as a pattern to minimise the amount of time my car was in pieces and this was dispatched to the same company I used the last time. Two weeks later and my wallet lightened to a shade under £300 including VAT, I received my new heater matrix.



It is just about possible to get the heater unit out of the car without taking the dashboard out. I will outline the process for doing this work with accompanying photographs in the next newsletter.

I also hope to finally cure my squeaky heater motor once and for all.

## New 3 litre boot badges

Boot badges with faded paint are a common occurrence with our cars. Just to recap, I had made several attempts to get these remade over the years but with no quantifiable success. About 5 years ago a company who specialise in 3D printing said they could print our badges in plastic and chrome spray the chrome areas. I was assured this was possible and so placed an order subject to seeing a prototype. To cut a long story short it seems they were a little over confident in what they could achieve and the prototype never appeared. They did however offer to produce the badges in aluminium with a metallic red infill. A prototype did appear and I raised my thoughts which were not completely positive as the badge did not have a great finish. A promise was made that the finished goods would be much improved and that it was just a prototype. A minimum order was placed which was 20 badges at £27.50 each so with carriage I shelled out £550. It's a long story but I accepted some of the badges and rejected some of the others so I ended up with the lesser ones at a reduced cost of £15. A few badges found new homes and I have two reserved for a club member but I still have 12 of these left. Would anyone be interested in one at £15 plus post? They are fixed with double sided tape as opposed to the two pins. They look their best when the laquer is removed and the aluminium polished up with metal polish. They do look reasonably chrome like. To quantify, the 'lesser' badges still look ok but some have small dirt inclusions in the red paint and the laquer coat isn't perfect, not an issue if you want to rub it off and polish the badge. I know I am being over fussy as many people have said they all look the same and are fine. Once they are gone they are gone so if you fancy one let me know. If I have any left I will bring them to Gaydon. The photo below is one of these badges.





# 3 Litres at Gaydon

A selection of images of our previous visits to the BMC day at Gaydon



We hope to see you there in 2023!





# Technical tip

By Peter Rigall

I have found a solution to my missing bonnet strip. When the car was restored in NZ they must have decided not to replace it for whatever reason. They can be rust traps so maybe that was the reason.

Anyway I got a strip from a wrecked 1800. I knew this would not fit but I thought I could cut and shut it and make it fit. It was stainless so would clean up OK.

It was of course too long but the angle was not sharp enough either. It would have taken a bit of work to make it fit and would probably look like a botch job.



So....had the idea to fit a self adhesive chrome strip from eBay. (15mm).

No drilling or rivets required. Less chance of rust forming.

Peter Rigall

*Ed's note, that looks really smart Peter, thanks for sharing it. A low cost solution too!*



