BERKELEY ENTHUSIASTS CLUB BULLETIN

!! EXCITING NEWS !!

A once in a decade/lifetime opportunity for the Berkeley Connoisseur ... and a unique car in which to enter the 2018 L-B-L! See page 6.

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Chairman's Report

All, welcome to 2017!

As promised in the December issue and postulated at the 2016 BEC AGM, the annual BEC Rally will be held at The Plough, Wingfield, Bedfordshire over the weekend of 19th-21st May (the weekend after Prescott Classic Hill Climb, as per the last four years). Full details to follow in subsequent Bulletins, but it is anticipated that the event will include a Saturday evening meal at The Plough (hopefully with an after dinner speaker) and awards on the Sunday, along with a road run to Biggleswade, the home of all Berkeleys.

Due to unavailability of two prominent committee members, it was deemed impractical to hold the BEC AGM over the course of this event, so at Nigel's suggestion the AGM is to be tagged onto an alternative event supported by the BEC. The only suitable event which the majority of committee members can attend is Wheel Nuts at St. Roses School in Stroud (Gloucestershire) on Sunday 7th May. The AGM will therefore be held between from 4:00pm and 6:00pm at the well equipped church hall in nearby Minchinhampton on Saturday 6th May. See the *News* column for full details (including camping arrangements for those also attending Wheel Nuts the next day).

Please note that if you do intend to bring a Berkeley to Wheel Nuts you need to register it with our event co-ordinator, Mr D Rich (*2kats@tiscali.co.uk*) ASAP - there is no 'turning up on the day' and they are always over-subscribed! Alternatively, there is a minimal entrance fee for those attending as 'spectators'. Those of you intending to camp at Minchinhampton on Friday, Saturday or Sunday nights, will need to register through Geoff Dabrowa, our membership secretary.

I realise that for many of you this situation rather ties up May weekend-wise, particularly if you are booked in for the Prescott event, as I am! The situation hasn't been helped by the fact that St. Roses School have put back Wheel Nuts from April, by some two weeks! I can only empathise with you - your committee is conscious of this fact, but there was no other alternative. I hope that you, the membership, will understand our predicament and that we can all work to make the BEC AGM, Wheel Nuts and the BEC Annual Rally successful events.

As in 2016, it looks like we'll be kicking off this year's Rally season with the Old Warden show

in Beds., on Sunday 2nd April, as detailed in the December bulletin. Last year we had a fantastic turnout of cars and we are hoping this year will be the same. As with the aforementioned, check the *News* column in this and subsequent bulletins for details of 'pre-registration'; our membership secretary is also the co-ordinator for this event.

Lastly, as we enter 2017, let us not forget that we have just 16 months until the 2018 Liège Brescia Liège Diamond Jubilee Rally. It may seem like an eternity away, but the time will soon pass, so best to start your preparations now! For those members unfamiliar with the original 1958 L-B-L, it was taken on board with more commitment by Berkeley Cars Ltd than possibly any other manufacturer (other than Fiat). They entered two teams (six cars in all), even 'retro-fitting' 328cc engines into three of them, to allow them to compete in the sub-350cc Class, as well as the sub-500cc Class. The fact that only one of those original six cars actually finished the rally (that one being 'unplaced') makes it relatively easy for us to redress the balance ... if 60 years later! However, with maximum effort and co-ordination we could even win!

Keep Berkeleying!
Geoff (Bill) Toyer *geedadtee@ntlworld.com*

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NEWS

BEC Calendars

All members should have received their 2017 BEC Calendar early in the new year (they were in the local post office awaiting collection by December 30th). We are holding a few copies back for new members joining over the next couple of months, but also have 4 or 5 additional copies which are available on a first-come first-served basis (limited to one copy per member). The cost (including postage) is £7.00 (UK), £9.50 (Europe) or £10.50 (Rest-of-World). Please contact Dave Perrin (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*) if you are interested.

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Local BEC Gatherings: Southern Area

BEC Surrey 'chapter' meetings will resume on 14th February and every subsequent Tuesday evening for the rest of 2017. The venue is The Saddler's Arms, Send Marsh, Woking (just off the A3 a few miles North of Guildford, postcode GU23 6JQ).

Any variations from the second Tuesday will normally be posted in the relevant section of the Forum on the club website, however, if you are planning to join us, please contact the organiser Club President Mike Rounsville-Smith or regular attendee Dave Perrin (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*) beforehand, just to make sure, as we occasionally switch to an alternative Tuesday to suit availablility of the regular attendees (or in the event of extreme weather conditions).

As in previous years, we also hope to have a special Drive-It-Day gathering around mid-day on Sunday 23rd April, but this will only go ahead if sufficient members are able to bring their Berkeleys along.

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London Classic Car Show, ExCel, Friday 24th to Sunday 26th February

The organisers describe this year's show as their biggest and best to date. It includes a number of feature areas: '70 years of Ferrari', 'Octane & EVO's Concept Cars', 'Quentin Willson's Smart Buys', 'Beaulieu Pop-Up Autojumble', 'Live Motoring Runway (The Grand Avenue)' and 'Car Club Square', plus a display of the cars that have defined six-time Le Mans winner Jacky Ickx (the world's greatest all round racing driver). Ickx will be talking with visitors on the Friday and, together with Le Mans co-driver Derek Bell MBE, will be amongst the guests of honour at the gala event on the evening of the Thursday preview day.

Tickets will also allow entry to the new co-located Historic Motorsport International show (see website *http://www.historicmotorsportinternational.co.uk* for further details), which is being opened at mid-day by Jackie Ickx.

For bookings, see *http://lccs.seetickets.com/tour/the-london-classic-car-show-2017.* Normal ticket prices are Adults: £24, Children (6-16): £18 and Under-6s: FREE, but if you enter the discount code BERKELEY, you can get 2 tickets for £40 (plus the £1.95 transaction fee).

See website *www.thelondonclassiccarshow.co.uk* for more information.

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Drive It Day, Sunday 23rd April

The FBHVC (Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs) exists to protect owners' rights to use their historic vehicles on the UK's roads. It has over 530 member clubs (including the BEC) and is estimated to represent over 255,000 individual owners.

On 23rd April 1900, a group of 64 cars left London on the Royal Automobile Club 'Thousand Mile Trial'. The tour passed through Bristol, Birmingham, Manchester, travelled through Scotland and then passed back through more English locations, returning to London on 12th May. 46 of the starting cars made it to the finish line, which is quite an achievement considering the nature and reliability of those early vehicles.

Drive It Day was devised by the FBHVC in commemoration of this historic event and is always held on the Sunday nearest to 23rd April. The idea is that historic vehicles of all sorts are 'rescued' from their winter hibernation, thoroughly checked and cleaned, and taken out on the road. The upshot being a pleasant 'season opener' drive for the owners and good publicity for the classic vehicle movement in general. Many clubs hold meetings and 'scenic runs', selecting routes and venues to suit their particular requirements, and it has been estimated that something like a quarter of a million historic vehicles take to the roads.

All types of vehicles at least 30 years old are eligible: four, two and three wheelers, trucks, buses, tractors and even former military vehicles.

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BEC AGM, Saturday 6th May

In a change to the normal club routine, this year's AGM will be held as a stand-alone event at Minchinhampton near Stroud the day before the Wheel Nuts charity vehicle show detailed

below.

The venue is 'The Hub' Baptist Church Hall, Tobacconist Road (postcode GL6 9JJ) and the AGM is scheduled to start at 4pm, with doors open from around 3:30pm. It has ample parking for our needs, can seat 150 people(!) and we have use of the kitchen, so tea, coffee and light snacks should be available.

If you are camping overnight for the Wheel Nuts show next day (with seven members already booked in to display their Berkeleys and hopefully more to follow), the hall is only two minutes walk from the campsite.

For the benefit of those who demand slightly more luxurious accommodation, there are Travelodges at Gloucester (11 miles away) and Cheltenham (13 miles away), and both currently have rooms available at reasonable rates, although the prices will no doubt increase over the coming weeks.

AGM/Wheel Nuts camping on Friday, Saturday or Sunday nights has been arranged at Tobacconist Farm Campsite (postcode also GL6 9JJ) at £10 per tent per night (payable on the weekend, but please register with me now, so that we can give the site owners some idea of how many members will be staying). Likewise, please contact me if you have any queries.
Geoff Dabrowa *BECMembership@googlemail.com*

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Wheel Nuts, Sunday 7th May

There has been a Berkeley presence at this charity Classic Vehicle Show for the last 3 years, with three cars in 2014, six in 2015 and five in 2016 (eight were expected, but unfortunately one broke down en route and 2 others had to drop out on the day). It normally clashes with Drive-It-Day, but this year it is taking place two weeks later, on Sunday May 7th.

The venue is the well maintained grounds of St. Rose's School (Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL5 4AP). The show is very popular, regularly squeezing over 450 cars and motor bikes onto the school playing field (last year almost 500 vehicles were present); the vehicle ages generally range from the early-1920s up to around 1980.

The event is organised by the school, which provides both day and residential care for children and young people (aged from 2 to 19 years) with severe physical disabilities. Entry is nominally free, but it is requested that exhibitors make a voluntary donation. The school relies greatly on donations and the profits from this and other school events/activities are invested in various projects; their specially converted minibus and hydrotherapy unit being prime examples.

Early booking is essential (each year the school have to turn away prospective exhibitors) and as in previous years, Dave Rich has kindly volunteered to handle the club bookings. The exhibitor application form has now arrived and we need to confirm the final numbers by March 24th, but the sooner Dave can get back to them with a firm figure, the better. We provisionally booked eight places, but seven members have already expressed a firm interest, so he has asked the organisers to up our allocation to 14 slots, in the hope that we can get ten or more Berkeleys there this year!

Awards are usually given for *Best Car* and *Best Bike* in show. Exhibitors must be on site by 10am and the show is open to the public from 11am to 4pm (for obvious reasons of safety, display vehicles are not allowed to move until after 4pm). Refreshments are available in the form of hot dogs (from the barbecue) and home made tea and cakes (from the tea tent). Chips can also be purchased between 12 noon and 2pm.

For the benefit of those living further afield, who would prefer to stay over to ease the journey, there are hotels, a Premier Inn and camp sites in the area (see AGM announcement above).

Please contact Dave Rich (e-mail: *2kats@tiscali.co.uk* or Tel: 01453-547708) **as soon as possible** if you want to book a place (or for further information).

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F1 'Factory' Visits, Silverstone, Northants, January - March

The Sahara Force India Formula One Team is opening its doors to the public (allowing F1 and motorsport fans to see all stages of the design and manufacture process) and, although still rather pricey, they are offering a 10% discount to BEC members during the first quarter of 2017. The 90 minute tour includes the design office, inspection departments, proof testing, machining, composite manufacture, sub assembly, race bays and drive simulator.

The tours will be taking place every Friday from 6th January to 10th March, plus Thursday 23rd or 31st March. The current cars may be away racing or testing at the time of your visit, but you will definitely be able to see other Sahara Force India F1 cars and there will also be a photo opportunity with an F1 car. The Sahara Force India site is located just opposite the famous Silverstone circuit gates (Dadford Road, Silverstone, Northamptonshire, NN12 8TJ), refreshments will be provided and you will receive a gift to take away. The standard charge is £200 + VAT per person, which with the club discount equates to £216 per member.

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Front Hubs

Thanks to the efforts of our chairman Geoff Toyer (who very kindly arranged their manufacture, collected the basic castings from the foundry and delivered them for machining), we now have a fresh batch of the later-style front hubs with radial strengthening ribs. Thank you Geoff for all the running around and also to Mick Griffiths, who delivered the finished items to BEC Spares!

Inevitably, the cost has risen since our last manufacture about five years ago and the price is now £120.00 each, plus £10.00 post & packing (UK).

They are supplied unpainted, so ready for you to to apply the finish of your choice. The central splines have been broached (to accept the stub axles) and the five wheel tabs have been tapped (ready for the wheel studs to be added). The studs are not included, but are also available from BEC Spares at £5.00 each.

Nigel Halliday

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EVENTS

Apr 2nd: **Classic Motor Show**, Old Warden, Bedfordshire.
See December '16 bulletin. *www.classicmotorshows.co.uk*

April 23rd: FBHVC Drive It Day, events across UK promoting awareness of historic vehicles.

May 6th: **BEC AGM**, 'The Hub', Tobacconist Road, Minchinhampton, Stroud, GL6 9JJ.
See above.

May 7th: '**Wheel Nuts**' Classic Car & Bike Show, St. Rose's School, Stroud, GL5 4AP.
See above.

May 13th/14th: Ingliston Revival, Royal Highland Centre, Edinburgh.
See October '16 bulletin. *www.Ingliston.co.uk/Revival*

May 13th/14th: Prescott Hill Climb, Cheltenham.
See October '16 bulletin. *www.cleevevale.org.uk*

May 19th-21st: **BEC Rally**, The Plough Inn, Wingfield, Leighton-Buzzard, LU7 9QH.
See above.

Jun 3rd/4th: Classic Car Show & Autojumble, Tatton Park, Cheshire.
See December '16 bulletin. *www.cheshireautopromotions.co.uk*

Jul 7th - 9th: Bristol MicroCar Club Rally, Keynsham Rugby Club, BS31 2BE.
See September '16 bulletin. *www.bristolmicrocarclub.com*

Aug 19th/20th: Classic Car Show & Autojumble, Tatton Park, Cheshire.
See December '16 bulletin. *www.cheshireautopromotions.co.uk*

Aug 26th: Classic & Retro Festival, Gloucester City Centre. See November '16 bulletin.

Sept 23rd/24th: Pistons & Props, Sywell Aerodrome, Northamptonshire, NN6 0BN.
http://www.sywellclassic.co.uk

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MARKETPLACE

For Sale: Berkeley Foursome STP 917 !

The seventh of only 19 production Foursomes built by the Berkeley factory between October 1958 and February 1959. Registered in May 1959 in Portsmouth (has modern V5C 'logbook').

Red paintwork. Tan soft top & sidescreen trim. Original 'bucket' seats. We understand that the car was purchased by the current owner's family in 1968, however, the original three-cylinder Excelsior engine had been removed from the car earlier in the 1960s - instead, it was (and still is) fitted with a twin-carb 328cc Excelsior engine. The car was only used once or twice in the first few years of ownership, before being parked up (well covered and protected) in a dry garage, so is unrestored, but is otherwise in near factory original condition. It is slightly dusty with a wonderful 'patina' to its paintwork, etc. and we would suggest that it is simply cleaned

up, put back to running order and returned to the road with its original paintwork restored using cutting compound. It would be a real shame to fully restore such a well preserved car!



Obviously, the years will have taken their toll in some ways and a thorough inspection will be required to establish which items need repair/refurbishment in order to return it safely to the road. The tyres, braking system and electrical connections will no doubt all require attention. Likewise, the engine and trasmission will need to be checked out, but the power unit still has an external film of oil present, so initial signs are good on that front. The seats will also need close inspection of the stitching and possible repair thereof. Non-original features spotted thus far are the bonnet hinges, the bonnet prop, the 328cc engine and the border rubber trim to the windscreen glass, all of which can be easily remedied.





With regard to the missing triple engine, the BEC and its members can probably locate one for this very deserving cause, although it should be noted that a running rebuilt 492cc engine must be worth an absolute minimum of £1,500.





This car is the subject of an estate sale so, at the request of the family, special procedures apply, as follows:-

Any BEC member interested in purchasing the car must register their interest by email or in writing with the BEC panel by the evening of Sunday 5th February 2017. You must make a provisional unbinding monetary offer for the car and send a written statement setting out why you should be considered as a worthy purchaser, and your capabilities re. owning, garaging, working on and overhauling the car (details of past Berkeley experience may assist your case).

NOTE: The minimum acceptable offer for this car is £3,000, but a substantially higher winning offer is expected.

After 5th February, all offers will be reviewed by representatives of the BEC and carefully considered in terms of monetary value and content of the written submission. After consultation with the vendors the best four will all be invited to a private viewing/inspection of the car in East London or Essex, most likely on February 11th, 12th, 18th or 19th.

The four candidates will then be required to submit their final offer in writing in a sealed postal bid direct to the vendors (this offer is intended to be binding). The car will need to be paid for and collected by the weekend of 25th/26th February 2017.

If BEC members do not show sufficient interest in the purchase of this rare car, then it will be advertised elsewhere to the wider public and/or sold at auction.

Photos are attached below and the BEC panel will answer any questions during the initial stage to the best of their knowledge/ability, however, please bear in mind that we have seen little of the car ourselves.

Initial/provisional offers are to be e-mailed to Dave Perrin (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*) or sent to Nigel Halliday at the address in 'Club Contacts' section of this bulletin (page 11).

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For Sale: T60 GEK 167

Soft top model with windscreen assembly, sidescreens and hood frame (just needs soft top). Original engine (plus a spare). Original steering wheel. Original 'bucket' seats. No spare

wheel. No V5C, but I have obtained proof of registration from the local archives department and also have the last tax disc and Mot certificate (dated 1972), so no problem recovering the original registration. Was with the previous owner for 40 years and I bought it a few months ago to do a full restoration, but a change in circumstances means that this will no longer be possible.

The car is now partially stripped for restoration - will need new internal steelwork (available from BEC Spares for £350). The power unit was removed to ease moving of the bodyshell, but all engine bay steelwork and alloy panels are still in in place and the steering mechanism is intact. Rear tub separated from floorpan and rear swing arm removed ready for refurbishment.

£1,800 ono (this is what I paid for it).

Contact: Steven (Poynton, Stockport), Mob: 07796-980835, e-mail: *4swl59@gmail.com* .

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For Sale: Mini-engined T60

From the latest issue of Classic MotorCycle magazine:-

1960 Berkeley T60 with 850cc Mini-engine. Has V5 and old MoTs. Some work needed. £2,850 firm. Tel: 01493-750302 (Norfolk).

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For Sale: 1959 T60 Rebuild Project

This serious restoration project is offered for sale having just been rescued by BEC Spares. It is chassis no 492, a relatively late bench seat model. The body comprises punt, rear section (removed from punt) and damaged front section, with bonnet and two doors. Standard chromed windscreen surround (with glass) and hood frame are included, but there is also a hardtop moulding with damaged lower rail (believed to be from another car). Soft top, sidescreens and original bench seat are all missing.





The front body section is in poor condition and we think that a replacement new front section would be the best solution. These are available from CaSCU in Norfolk at approximately £300 (this was the price listed by them at the 2012 NMCR) or possibly elsewhere (keep an eye on the bulletin for expected announcement about new body sections). The original engine, gearbox and transmission are present, but will also need a full rebuild.





Front wheels, suspension and driveshafts are all still fitted to the car, as is the rear swinging arm assembly. The original alloy footwell crossmember is still in place, but the alloy seat/gearchange crossmember is missing and the original steel sills have rusted away, so it will ideally need to be transported on a wooden framework of some kind to minimise any damage to the punt section (a basic ladder frame made of 2" x 4" timber works well, and a snug fitting van can be hired quite cheaply). However, BEC Spares hopes to be able to offer new steel sills for the T60 interim models by June 2017, so the new owner won't need to fabricate their own. The engine bay top hat sections have also rusted away, but BEC Spares is currently considering remanufacture of these too.

The car has a chassis plate, but at the time of writing no registration mark entitlement has come to light. However, we see no reason why (with the assistance of the BEC's vehicle registrar) it will not be allocated an age related registration by the DVLA, provided it is restored to original condition.

The power unit and other loose parts/assemblies have already been recovered, but the bodyshell is currently still in the Birmingham area - due to imminent sale of the property, we plan to move it to the South Coast if a local buyer cannot be found over the next week or so.

Viewing possible at either location by arrangement and BEC Spares will do our best to ensure that a complete package of parts is included in the sale, but we have not been able to assess exactly which smaller parts may be missing and some components are now very rare or unobtainable. Further photos available upon request.

Offers of £500 or more to be made NOW via Dave Perrin (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*).

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NOTE: Event News, For Sale/Wanted, etc.

If you wish to place a News Item or an Advertisement in the BEC Bulletin, or have any queries about an item or advertisment that has already appeared, please contact Dave Perrin (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*).

Please DO NOT contact Geoff Dabrowa, as he only e-mails the bulletin to you.

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Berkeley Enthusiasts Club

www.berkeleycarclub.com

Website for BEC members and anyone interested in our cars.
Webmaster: Peter Smyth

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'Berkeley-USA' Yahoo Group: *https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Berkeley-USA/info*

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'BerkeleyCarOwners' Facebook page: *https://www.facebook.com/groups/berkeleycarowners/*

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The January 2017 BEC Bulletin was compiled and edited by Dave Perrin