BERKELEY ENTHUSIASTS CLUB
BULLETIN

Chairman's Report

With this issue comes the sad news of the passing away after a long and protracted illness of our member Graham Higgs' wife Jacqui. As many of you may well know, Graham himself had been in isolation from the very start of the C19 pandemic in 2020, thus unable to attend any shows and gatherings Berkeley-wise. However, he did remain available to members for general consultation on their problems and also continued, when possible his research and projects in his infamous 'shed'.

I know that you will all wish Graham and his family your deepest sympathies and condolences, but I ask you to respect his privacy in his time of grief and mourning. See 'News/Obituaries' for further details and Jacqui's funeral and internment.

Also reported by Neil Barber, via social media, another sad passing of a Berkeley owner and regular user, Mr John Denning. We offer our deepest sympathies to his son 'Rich' and family. See also 'News/Obituaries'.

Better news has been forthcoming since the last issue by way of notification of the re-establishment of the 'Wheel Nuts' Classic Vehicle show for May 2022. (Details in 'Events.) As many may remember, this cracking little show in Stroud, Gloucestershire had long become the traditional season's 'opener' for the BEC's 'Drivers and Doers'. Sadly the last show we attended there prior to the C19 pandemic was tainted by the sudden death of our BEC Coordinator for that show, Mr Dave Rich. It was always Dave's intention to get ten Berkeleys in attendance - on some years we came close - but never quite achieved Dave's 'perfect ten'. It was our intention for 2020 to campaign to commemorate in honour of Dave to get the 'perfect ten' Berkeleys to attend that he so wished for. In fact, if my memory serves me well, I think we had the ten commitments, prior to the show having to be cancelled due to the pandemic.

So, let's see if we can concentrate our efforts for next year and get 'the perfect ten'! I have contacted the organisers to register the Club's interest in having a BEC stand there. More details will follow in future Bulletins, but mark the date in your calendars now!

As you all may be aware, the festive holiday season will be upon us this coming December, do not forget BEC regalia to gift your loved ones! See 'News' for details.

Keep safe and keep Berkeleying!

Geoff (Bill) Toyer

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NEWS

Obituaries

With sadness I must let you know my mum Jackie Higgs passed away on the 13/10/21 in St. Richards Hospice, Worcester.

Since 2001 her Strawberry Patch T60 with my dad has attended many BEC rallies and shows.

She will be sadly missed by us all.



Michael Higgs

The Funeral/Internment will be held at Westmill Woodland Burial Ground at 11.00am on 3 November 2021. That's Watchfied on the B4508 to Highworth Road via the A420.

info@woodlandburialwestmill.co.uk

Donations will go to the St Richards Hospice Worcester.

www.strichards.org.uk/give-in-memory show several ways to donate directly.

A collection box will be available at the funeral and at the pub after. Envelopes could still be sent to Graham, by post. They will be folded and popped in before the collection box is hand delivered to St Richards a week or so later.

Graham Higgs, 5 Bream Close, Worcester WR5 3HU

Obituaries

Rich Denning has informed us of the sad passing of his father John. John was from Bristol and was very active with his Berkeley Three Wheeler, using it every day as his 'daily driver'.

Our commiserations and condolences go out to Rich and his family.

A message from the Magazine Editor

Just a reminder for the closing date deadline of October 30th for the next BEC magazine. This will be the Christmas edition, so let's make it bumper issue!

Terry Scott *thebecmag@gmail.com*

BEC Regalia and Clothing

A reminder to place your order now for Christmas presents – see last month's Bulletin for details.

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Update: Membership Secretary Report

The following figures relate to the 'current' membership as of 23rd October 2021.

The figures exclude all members that expired at the end of September 2021 and beyond.

This month shows another small drop in current Membership, some not renewing as they have sold or are in process of selling their car, or some just not yet renewed.

Subscribing members now total 200 plus 14 Honorary and Car Clubs resulting in 214 total overall Membership.

- United Kingdom 147 subscribing members
- Europe 24 subscribing members
- Rest of the world 29 subscribing members (20 subscribing members in USA)

The BEC welcomes two New Members this month and a long absent Member:

#2772 Brett Ford	SE328	Bexleyheath, Kent, UK
#2773 Angelo Capodiferro	T60 Hybrid	Wallingford, Connecticut, USA
#617 Gerald Cookson	SA322	Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, UK

A few interesting numbers to ponder over, in recent years the Membership has been around 200 subscribing Members. In the past 12 months the Club has seen 40 New and Re-joined Members and currently half of the Membership is made up of Members having joined since January 2017 resulting in approximately only 100 have been in the BEC for more than 5 years.

If nothing else, it keeps me busy.

Currently 15 UK Members are receiving their Bulletins printed and posted each month, if you would like to get your copy posted rather than emailed please contact me and just send me stamps for the cost of postage.

The cost of the reprinted Magazines is £1 per copy plus postage. Payment is to The BEC by cheque or PayPal.

Bank Transfer also if copy of the transaction can be sent to me.

Just a reminder when renewing your Membership by Bank Transfer please do notify when this has been done especially if you are unable to send me a 'copy'.

Thank you.

Happy Berkeleying

Geoff Dabrowa – Membership Secretary

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EVENTS

Due to the current public health crisis and UK Government directives, events over the next few months are likely to be either cancelled or postponed. Please check with organisers before attending any of the upcoming events that are not currently showing as cancelled or postponed.

November 2021

Classic Restoration & Spares Market 7th November

Come and join us for the UK's Largest Indoor Autojumble!

Get your motor running with the help of The Classic Restoration & Spares Market, held at Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, on Sunday 7th November 2021. Tickets are just £8 in advance and £10 on the door, with car parking absolutely free and in close proximity to the heated exhibition hall.

Whether you're looking for that final part on your latest project at our autojumble, wanting to browse the classic car club displays or just want some good honest down-to-earth advice from the experts - we've got it all. There's even a restaurant on site for you to take a pit-stop at and enjoy a great full English breakfast!

Secure your tickets today and join us for a fabulous day of vintage motoring.

www.restoration-show.co.uk

BEC Southern Chapter Monthly Meet Up Tuesday 9th November

The monthly BEC Surrey area meetings resume on Tuesday 9th November from 7.30 pm at 'The Saddlers Arms', Send Marsh, Surrey, GU23 6JQ (just off the A3 a few miles north of Guildford).

You may care to contact organiser Mike Rounsville-Smith before you leave home and travel a long distance, just in case lockdown measures are put back in place. Also, the kitchen is currently only open until 8pm, so please let Mike know if you would like a meal and roughly what time you expect to arrive, so that he can advise the management.

Mike Rounsville-Smith – President/Secretary **Tel:** *01932 560160*

Wheel Nuts 2022: 1 May

Put it in your Diary now! May 1st 2022 Bank Holiday weekend. St Roses School, Stroud, Gloucestershire.

We owe it to the late Dave Rich to get more than 10 Berkeleys there. Let's make a weekend of it. Great campsite nearby in Minchinhampton.

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Reports, Event News, For Sale/Wanted, etc.

Please contact Lorraine Thomas (*lorrainecourse@gmail.com*) if you wish to place a News Item, Event or an Advertisement in the BEC Bulletin, or have any queries about an item or advertisement that has already appeared.

Please send any items before **Sunday 21st November** for inclusion in the November 2021 Bulletin.

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Feedback from advert in September's Bulletin

Thank you for listing the advert regarding the few items of Berkeley memorabilia. My first call today was from Germany, the second from the UK, the third from America, the fourth from the UK … and they keep coming.

Obviously something was very collectable and your members are quick to notice. They have all been very nice and I agreed to sell to the first enquiry. So I am now just apologising to the others. First come first served, as they say. I am pleased to know the items will be in the good hands of a club member and I am grateful to you for allowing my advert.

Your bulletin is obviously read eagerly on the day of release.

The calls keep coming, even had one from a club member in Guernsey! Your Bulletin is well read!!!

MARKETPLACE

Hard Top for T60

Hard Top for T60, complete with front and rear screens and new set of rubber screen surrounds. Price is £450, possibility of delivery at cost.

For further details please contact me.

Geoff Dabrowa **Tel:** *07751 288329*

For sale: Berkeley T60

1960 Berkeley T60. Colour red, stainless steel floor, new hood, seats, tyres and wiring loom.

A lot of money has been spent on this car. Good running order £6000.

Contact: *Fred Massey*
Membership number 651 on **Tel:** *01746 712512 or* **Mobile:** *07532164206*

For sale in Australia

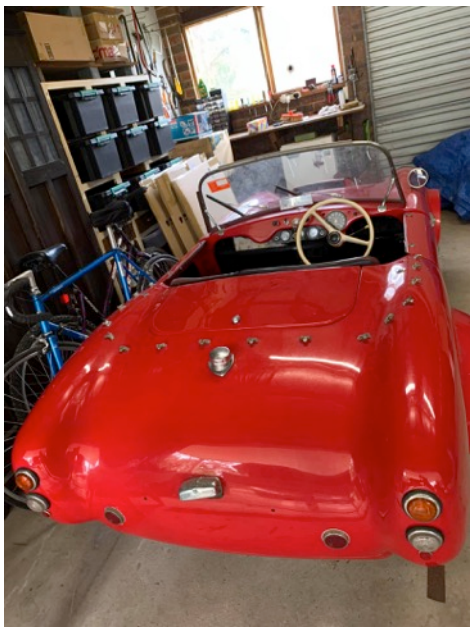
A 1958 'Sports' Type SE 328 converted to Mini power. Good condition, red complete with seat, hood frames etc. Converted in excess of 30 years ago and unused for the last 20 years but has been kept in good condition. Needs recommissioning. Located on Philip Island near Melbourne. One of only 16 SE 328s exported to Australia originally.

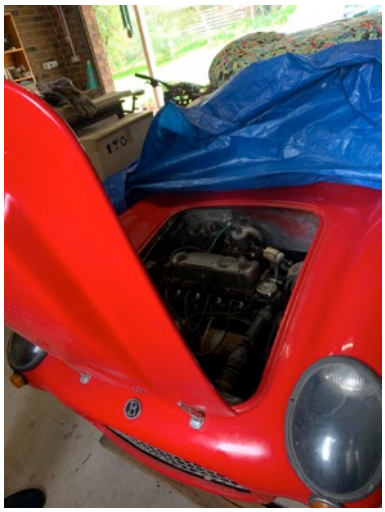












Contact Jan Cox via Facebook Berkeley Owners page posted on 25th September 2021

Wanted

New member would be pleased to visit an owner with a B95/105 to discuss its foibles with a view of requesting a wanted ad for one.

George Moore, South Lincolnshire **Tel:** *01780 410169*

T60 for sale

A restoration project T60.

Engine, transmission, windscreen and complete interior missing.

I have the V5 in my name.

£550 ovno

For any more information please contact:

Chris Elliott on **Tel:** *07974 258585*





Free to a good home to a Club Member

I am a Berkeley club member (2726) restoring a T60. When I got all the bits for the car it came with a new floor/punt and rear section. As I want to keep the car original, I have restored the original floor and rear section. I now have the surplus new floor and rear section that I have tried unsuccessfully to sell and now before scrapping it would like to offer the two parts 'Free to a good home' to a club member.



The floor section would require repositioning of the two ribs by about 1" if using standard metalwork.

Duncan Mitchell
Email: *dunc128@gmail.com*





SPARES

Spares Update

The following items are on order, so should be back in stock shortly:

MB 358 Headlamp Covers

These are formed from a thin modern ultra-clear PETG (thermoplastic polyester) material, rather than the original Perspex (Plexiglass). They need to be carefully cut down to suit your car and are therefore suitable for the Sports SA322 & SE328 (with small apertures & covers) and the Sports SE492 & T60 (with larger apertures and the retaining strip almost touching the indicator rubber).

Price £18.00 each plus £4.00 UK P&P (overseas postage rates available on request).



Sports SE328 Hoods & Sidescreens (Soft Top Hood & Curtains)

For many years, accurately sized correctly fitting hoods have not been available for 'Sports' SA322, SE328 and early-SE492s (i.e. all models with sloping leading edged doors and the two-stick 3-hoop tubular hood frame). The last batch made for Dave Ratner in the early-2000s (we believe by Don Hoods in Birmingham) were very sadly too short/small and the lack of an original pattern has prevented BEC Spares re-manufacturing a new batch of hoods.



However, due to the appearance of a very original low mileage car in the USA (now owned by Ben Barsky) and the requirements of two-stroke supremo engineer and BEC member Jeff Payne in the UK, BEC Spares is now on the path to making a set of hard patterns and then some trial hoods. The remanufacture of matching sidescreens and fabric covers may follow as the second stage of this project.



To enable us to check the early patterns and to double check the possibility that some USA cars were fitted with taller softops (to fit tall Amercans!) we need some help from BEC members owning these models (either in the UK or elsewhere in the world). So, if you have an original hood or sidescreens/curtains similar to the photos, please get in touch with BEC Spares asap.



We would also be pleased to hear if anybody recognises the manufacturer or trade name of this original hood material - it is a grey/buff vinyl/plastic with a very fine mock woven embossed pattern/texture (see photo), we believe that it was only used by the Berkeley factory between 1956 and mid-1958.

We also believe that the driver's side sidescreens varied in design with regard to the flap let into the sidescreen to allow access to the internal door lock. On early 1956/7 cars it appears as a solid triangular fabric flap in the rear part of the sidescreen, with just its dead weight to make it hang closed, but on later 1957 and early-1958 cars, it appears that the flap was made horizontal for the whole length of the driver's side sidescreen (and seemingly on the passenger's side). To hold the clear vision panel flap down, a strap (made of the same hood fabric) was attached to it, with a press stud which clips onto the inside of the door – presumably one side had to be left unfastened when you parked the car, so that you could actually get your hand in to open the door lock.

Finally, if you are in need of an early hood to fit the two-stick 3-hoop frame, then please let BEC Spares know, so that we can judge demand for a batch of hoods.











Nigel Halliday BEC Spares Officer and Vehicle Registrar

Wanted

Desperately needed: an original Hepolite 58mm dia +20 thou piston for an Excelsior 328cc engine rebuild. Hepolite Part No. 13610. New or good second-hand would be acceptable.

Please contact USA BEC member Erwin Guerro (5601 Fleming Street, Everett, WA 98203 USA) **Email:** *pikaguam95@gmail.com*

Berkeley Enthusiasts Club

www.berkeleycarclub.com

Webmaster: Peter Smyth

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Other Berkeley related links:
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