BERKELEY ENTHUSIASTS CLUB
BULLETIN

Chairman's Report

I hope that you all managed to enjoy some sort of celebration this Christmas, albeit severely limited, especially after the Government's last minute change on movement and meeting restrictions. I personally was one of those whose plans were completely disrupted! However, by the time you're reading this we will be into 2021, so on behalf of the Committee and myself we wish you all a happy and prosperous new year.

Some better news!
As most of you may now be aware, our efforts in trying to fill the role of BEC Quarterly Magazine Editor have come to fruition by the volunteering of member Terry Scott to fill the role. You can read details of Terry's own resume and future plans elsewhere in this issue. I'm sure that we all wish Terry every success in his new role!

Your Committee was unanimous in verifying his interim appointment and, of course, you the membership will be able to ratify the appointment at the next BEC AGM, as and when we will be able to hold one, bearing in mind the present C19 crisis.

Terry's scheduled plan is for his first edition to be in the spring of the new year, sometime around April. However, there may be an interim issue published, made up of articles already 'in the pipeline' by caretaker Editor Dave Perrin, which leads me nicely on to thanking Dave for his efforts as 'caretaker' of the magazine by way of getting us out at least a few editions over the last few years.

Some not so good news!
We have been made aware via Douglas Anderson that due to the C19 pandemic, unfortunately The Monte Carlo Classic 2021 has had to be cancelled, or at least the UK section of it, as there is still a proposed European start.

As you may recall from previous Bulletin reports, that an abbreviated version of the rally was planned for 2021 whereby instead of the traditional Scottish start, usually Glasgow (or its environs, as a substitute) a shorter in length version with Banbury, England had been chosen. This you may also recall had previously been the English 'Passage Control' for the last three years. You may be thinking that, as no BEC members driving a Berkeley car have so far ever entered this iconic rally, so what! However, at both the Scottish start and English Passage Control, Classic Car Clubs have been invited so as to broaden the horizons of these two events into local 'cultural activities'.

The active members of the BEC have turned out with their cars in bitter winter conditions at the end of January to add their support to the Banbury Passage Control for the past three

years, in fact, since it was first allocated 'Passage Control' status. Over these three years it had become a bit of an unofficial BEC winter jolly, with most attendees staying over in lodgings the night prior and meeting up in a local hostelry for food, drink, chat and fun and as such, to those members, the event will no doubt be sorely missed!

Without being too pessimistic, I am of the opinion that the 'Monte' event will be only the first of many in early 2021 to be cancelled. Hopefully, with the roll out of the C19 vaccine things may improve and by the Autumn we may get back to some sort of normality. Meanwhile, with yet again loads of extra 'shed time' enforced on us by extended lockdown, when we finally 'see the light at the end of the tunnel' of this virus, all your 'shed time hours' will be rewarded and realised by an unprecedented number of Berkeleys in attendance at future rallies!

We can only live in hope!

Keep Berkeleying

Geoff (Bill) Toyer
geedadtee@ntlworld.com

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A message from the new magazine editor

Hi everybody

My name is Mr Terry Scott and I have taken over editing the Berkley Enthusiasts Club Magazine, the first magazine I am editing is due to be published in April 2021.

You may receive another one before that , but my first one is due in April.

I am not a computer Whizz kid so don't get too excited about the future content and to follow Dave Perrin is going to be an extremely difficult act to follow, but I do think we should all thank Dave for the excellent job he did.

I have wanted a Berkeley car since I was about 20 years old and finally a year ago I managed to find one that fitted the requirements of the car I was looking for. It's an SE328 , but more about the car at a later date.

The problem is it took me 52 years to find the right car, so I am 52 years short of the car's technical knowledge, now because of that I am awfully short of stories and articles to go in the magazine, so if you have an article or story or even just a picture of your car with a few lines I will try to find a slot for it.

The magazine does not do adverts for cars and parts for sale or cars and parts wanted, for an advert covering subjects like that you need to send it the BEC Bulletin editors, their contact details can be found in the back page of the bulletin.

If you have a few lines about your car that you wish to be included as an article please send them to me by e mail to ***thebecmag@gmail.com*** *, I will respond to say I received it, thanks.*

Ideally I would prefer it Microsoft word format, it makes it easier to put in the magazine, but I can convert most formats.

Thanks for reading this and your support of the BEC, I hope to hear from you soon

Terry

BEC Magazine Editor.

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Kop Hill Climb
kophillclimb.org.uk

Kop Hill Climb – a speed hill climb since 1910

The Kop Hill Climb Organising Committee has announced a change of dates for the 2021 Festival weekend, the 110th Anniversary year of the first- ever climb in 1910. The event will now be held on September 25th-26th and not September 18th-19th as originally scheduled and advised. The move has been occasioned by the announcement that the Goodwood Revival will be held on September 18th-19th. Many of our entrants and spectators enjoy attending both events, so this revision will make that possible.

The Committee, and indeed all the KHC Volunteers, send warmest Seasonal greetings to everyone associated with the event, together with our hopes for a much happier and healthier 2021. We all look forward to congregating once again "below the Hill" and celebrating the event that was so sorely missed this year by so many.

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SPARES

Spares Update

Help wanted

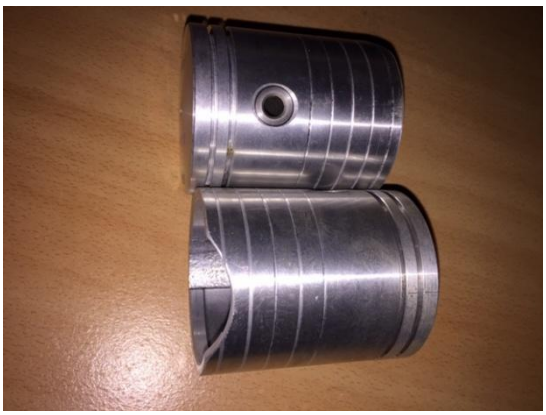
JP Pistons



Some 15 plus years ago the BEC was very aware of the fact that supplies of new old stock or even second-hand in good condition original Excelsior Hepworth pistons for the 328cc and 492cc engines were drying up fast. We heard that a Mr John Chatt of F.W.Thorntons in Shrewsbury was often friendly towards classic car clubs and hence we contacted him about the possibility of re-manufacturing the Excelsior 58mm diameter

pistons. Within a relatively short time the standard 328cc piston was available on their shelves. With a further request and an old sample supplied from the BEC they also arranged to re-manufacture the Excelsior Hepolite ''Supersports'' 492cc piston. It turned out that FWT had gone to JP Pistons in Australia to get the pistons manufactured. The BEC is unsure what technical input went from FWT to JP but one tends to think and hope that FWT and JP knew what they were doing with pistons as both companies had many years' experience of manufacturing or supplying pistons for lots of vehicles.





In the last few years, we have come across a few cases of what appear to be failed JP pistons in Excelsior engines that by all accounts have been rebuilt to a quality/respectable standard. Further these rebuilt engines seem to have only covered low mileages before failure.

The current suspicion(s) is that the problem(s) may lie with the specification / grade of alloy metal used to cast the new JP pistons and the fact that the JP piston does not use a bronze bush for the gudgeon pin to sit in / run in ,(unlike the Hepworth original). The BEC for the benefit of all its members and indeed Berkeley owners everywhere in the world feel that they need to further investigate and try and resolve this important issue

The BEC has contacted FWT and JP, both of whom seem keen to work with us to resolve the problem. However, we need some definite details of the piston failures and JP have asked for any failed pistons to be returned to them for close inspection

Therefore, if any BEC member who has JP pistons fitted to their Excelsior engine and has had a failure they are asked to contact BEC Spares with details. We will also be trying to collect the failed pistons together so they can be sent to JP in Australia for analysis.

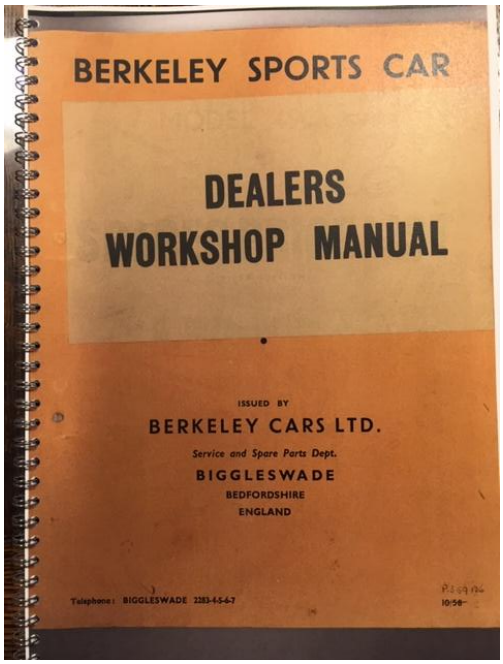
Publications

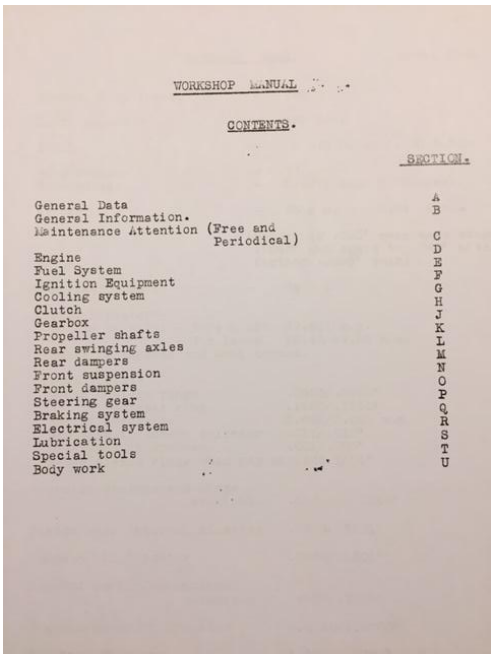
One of the publications that the BEC has offered for sale for many years is a reprint of the original **Berkeley Cars Dealers Workshop Manual for the B95 and B105 models**. The publication is based on the earlier printed, but now very rare Workshop Manual for the earlier Four wheelers dated October 1958. Has anybody got a copy, perhaps in the USA?

The odd fact about the manual is that the B95 version dated March 1959 only includes sections A to E (see photo below) which is essentially the Royal Enfield engine and fuel / carb section. The remaining sections F to U are not included. One can only assume that either it was intended to be a supplement to the earlier version or the factory never got around to completing the writing of the manual. The sections in the manual on the engine are

essentially a rewrite of the Royal Enfield Meteor and Constellation engine workshop manual.

Copies are available from BEC Spares at £8.00 plus P&P.




WORKSHOP MANUAL

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New in stock

Choke control as fitted under the dashboard on most models of Berkeleys (exception some B95s and B105s). This chrome thumb operated control has adjustable friction and comes with an outer cable stop and accepts the ‘’small fruit pastille / pill’’ inner cable nipple end. If you remove the handlebar clamp the control can be fitted to the bracket which is fixed to the steering column / parcel shelf

We currently have 2 No new ones in stock at a special price of £20.00 each (Further stocks will see an increase in price) plus £3.50 P&P UK





Nigel Halliday

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Update: Membership Secretary Report

The following figures relate to the "current" membership as of 29th December 2020.

The figures exclude all members that expired at the end of November 2020 and beyond.

Just one "Previous" member this month to add to the current Membership figures, originally an exceedingly early member of the BEC, re-joins after 20 years lapse.

The Club currently has a grand total of 214 Members.

- United Kingdom 144 subscribing members
- Europe 24 subscribing members
- Rest of the world 30 subscribing members. (22 members in USA)

Subscribing members total 198 plus 16 Honorary and Car Clubs resulting in 214 total membership.

The BEC welcomes back the following member this month:

#358 Ron Palgrave (***no car but looking for a B95 Please contact me if you can help***) Newcastle on Tyne UK

During 2020 The club has seen a good number of New and Re-joined Members

UK 21 - EU 5 - Rest of the World 4

Shame that just as many leave The Club and the little cars get moved from new owner to new owner, but I guess our Club is no different to other Classic Car Clubs??

Please keep me updated with changes of address and email addresses etc.

Currently 10% of the subscribing UK Membership are now receiving their Bulletin in the post each month. If you prefer to read your Bulletin in a booklet format or have no printer, just send me stamps for the postage and I will gladly print and post it to you each month.

There are choices available for renewing your Membership, however I cannot stress enough the importance that when paying your renewal by Bank transfer you ensure you notify me and that you have done it accompanied by a copy of the transaction.

If you are unable to send copy of a Bank Transfer, then please use PayPal or send a cheque. This eliminates time spent following up on renewals that may or may not have been paid already. Note: PayPal notify me automatically when you pay by this method.

During these difficult and restricted times with few chances of meeting up with other Members do have a look on Facebook to view the Berkeley Car Owners site. Details can be found on the back page of the bulletin.

Happy Berkeleying and wishing you an incredibly happy new Year

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

January 2021

Local BEC Gathering: Southern Area Meetings

POSTPONED

BEC Southern Area meetings are generally held on the second Tuesday of the month. Due to the current health crisis, meetings are cancelled until further notice

April 2021

FBHVC Drive it Day April 25th 2021

Annual drive your classic car day

Website: *https://www.fbhvc.co.uk/*

Berkeley Industries Ltd Launch Event April 26th 2021

Proposed launch day for the 'new Berkeley Bandit'.

Website: *www.berkeleysportscars.com/berkeleycoachworks*

Silverstone Classic Event 30th July - 1st August 2021 (Provisional Dates)

Website: . *www.silverstoneclassic.com/welcome*

September 2021

Micro Marathon 2020 10th -20th September 2021

Microcar rally through the Pyrenees and Northern Spain run by the organisers of the Liege - Brescia - Liege - Rallies and the 2019 NMCR (Malcolm & Helena McKay).

Email: *LBLrally@aol.com* **Tel:** 0044 (0)7711 901811

Website: *www.classicrallypress.co.uk/*

Goodwood Revival 18th - 19th September 2021

The only historic race meeting to be staged entirely in period dress, the Revival sees a return to the halcyon days of Goodwood as the spiritual home of British motor racing. It's a celebration of bygone days, vintage fashion and wheel-to-wheel racing around this classic circuit, which remains unchanged since its heyday.

See website for more details **Website:** *www.goodwood.com/motorsport/goodwood-revival/*

Kop Hill Climb 25th-26th September 2021

Kop Hill climb festival with categories for Veteran, Vintage and rare or interesting cars up to 1980,

See website for more details **Website:** *www.kophillclimb.org.uk*

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MARKETPLACE

For Sale - Seen in the Talisman Telegraph newsletter (early December)

1955 Excelsior Talisman motorcycle 250cc swinging arm suspension Fully restored in the early '00s but ready for the road. Valid V5 registration document . £3,500.

Contact: Jon in Leeds, Yorkshire **Tel**: 07950016458.

For Sale - Seen on the 'Excelsior Two Strokes Motorcycles' Facebook page

Originally posted on 7th October, but confirmed still available on 28th December.

For sale 1955 Excelsior Talisman motorcycle 250cc. Rebuilt, needs small amount of work to finish £2.200

Located in Durham,UK. .Seller Amos Morris .See facebook Two stroke Excelsior motorcycles page

Note from editor - You will need to join the group to see the ad or you could message Amos Morris directly through Facebook.Below is a link to his page.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/414102996067395/user/100012255281678/





Wanted - T60 Hardtop

Contact: Mick Ward –See post on Facebook Berkeley Car Owners page December 28th.

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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

From The BEC

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

Please contact Ian & Mel Danaford (*m.danaford@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 24th January** for inclusion in the January 2020 bulletin

Berkeley Enthusiasts Club

www.berkeleycarclub.com

Webmaster: Peter Smyth

Club Contacts

President/Secretary
Mike Rounsville-Smith, Tel: 01932-560160

Chairman
Geoff (Bill) Toyer, e-mail: *geedadtee@ntlworld.com* Tel: 07773119216

Membership Secretary & PayPal Payments Coordinator
Geoff Dabrowa, e-mail: *BECmembership@googlemail.com*, Tel: 01638-780500 or 07751288329

Technical Editor, Magazine Distribution
Dave Perrin, e-mail: *dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*, Tel: 02392-250880

Magazine Editor
Terry Scott, email : *thebecmag@gmail.com*

Bulletin Editors
Ian & Mel Danaford, e-mail: *m.danaford@gmail.com*

Spares Officer, Vehicle Registrar, Treasurer
Nigel Halliday, 'Burlington', 59 Orchehill Avenue, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, SL9 8QH or e-mail via Dave Perrin (above).

Regalia Secretary
Colin Pears, e-mail: *colin@pearsy.co.uk*, Tel: 01162-848016
BEC badged clothing available *at www.arktrading.com* (select Main Menu: Shop: Club Sites: Motor Clubs: Berkeley Enthusiast)

Webmaster
Peter Smyth, e-mail: *banditberkeley@virginmedia.com*

Other Berkeley related links:
'BerkeleyCarOwners' Facebook page: *https://www.facebook.com/groups/berkeleycarowners*

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The December 2020 BEC Bulletin was compiled and edited by Ian & Melanie Danaford