# BERKELEY ENTHUSIASTS CLUB BULLETIN




The biggest BEC rally of the century is nearly here. Fifty years of The Berkeley Enthusiasts Club is truly something worth celebrating, and we are hoping to see at least 50 Berkeleys at the Rally. Some are even coming from overseas, so there is no excuse for UK members not to load their Pride and Joy onto a car trailer, boat trailer, horsebox, lorry or a hired Transit Luton van with electric tail-lift! All Berkeleys (whether fully restored, scruffy, non-roadworthy or even just a pile of bits) are interesting and they are *all* very welcome, so please help us make the weekend a really special event and load yours up now!

See you at the rally!

BERKELEY ENTHUSIASTS CLUB BULLETIN

## BEC Rally & AGM Update

The 17th/18th May BEC Golden Jubillee rally weekend (at the Buckinghamshire Railway Centre, Quainton, near Aylesbury, North Buckinghamshire) is almost upon us. We are still working on a few elements of fine detail due to recent complications, but the likelihood is that this will be the last mailing before the event.

Please contact Dave Perrin (details below) if you intend coming to the AGM, etc. on Saturday evening, so that we have a rough idea how many seats to lay out in advance and can have a think about the best layout for full visibility of the screen later in the evening.

Beyond the details already announced in previous bulletins:-

AGM & Evening Event

The 2014 Berkeley Enthusiasts Club annual general meeting will be held in the Quainton Village Memorial Hall from 5:30pm (immediately after the Saturday afternoon road run, which concludes with a late afternoon tour of the Quainton Windmill by the village green).

The AGM and associated evening event is open to all paid up BEC members. The AGM will run for approx. 1-1½ hours, after which there will be a break for refreshments and a meal.

A two course meal (main and dessert) will be available at a cost of approximately £10 per head (meal options had not been finalised at the time of writing, but should be available by the time you receive this bulletin).

Meals must be pre-booked, so that the caterers have knowledge of the numbers required; please contact Dave Perrin (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk* or phone 02392-250880) by Friday 9th May to book your meal(s); after this date we cannot guarantee that food will be available (apologies for the short notice).

From approximately 7:30pm there will be an interview and question/answer session with the founder members of the club, followed by a film and slide show of the early days of the club. The hall will be available until 11pm.

Admission Costs

Saturday: Day visitors to the BEC rally site (covers participation in the road run and/or admission to Quainton Windmill, but the Steam Railway will not be operating).
£5.00/person.

Evening attendance at BEC AGM (and subsequent talk & slide show) in the hall.
FREE (currrent BEC members only).

Sunday: Day attendance at the rally (includes admission to the steam railway).
£8.00/child & £12/adult (includes senior citizens)

Weekend: On site camping/caravanning will be available on Friday night and Saturday night, but the site must be vacated by Sunday evening. Pitch fees (i.e. per tent, caravan or motorhome) will be charged at a flat rate regardless of length of stay. The 'weekend camping' fee also covers participation in the Saturday road run, subsequent free entry to Quainton Windmill and admission to the steam railway on the Sunday. The fee is £30/vehicle, payable at the gate upon arrival, and all

occupants of the vehicle will be given a BEC medallion each, to be worn throughout the weekend as proof of payment for the benefit of BEC and Railway Centre officials.

See http://www.bucksrailcentre.org/contact_us.php for location/route details.

Tring

The town of Tring (approximately 5 miles south of Aylesbury) is very significant in BEC history, as the first few meetings of the 'International Berkeley Enthusiasts Club' were held at the Rose & Crown Hotel. When this Jubilee event was first conceived, we had hoped to be able to hold a meeting there, but unfortunately the hotel has recently been converted into luxury residential appartments.

The mid-way lunch stop at Tring on the Saturday road run is therefore not just for those taking part in the road run. We suggest that other rally attendees may like to drive down the A41 through Aylesbury to Tring, park up in the town's car park and 'meet and greet' the Berkeleys as they arrive in town.

Local Attractions

For those members of the family who may not need two days of Berkeleys to get their adrenalin running, there are also other excellent leisure and shopping attractions local to Quainton.

Tring has two interesting attractions:-

The Rothschild Natural History Collection is reputedly the largest collection of stuffed animals and birds in the world! Although this may not be to everyone's taste, the collection is very significant and entry is free.

BEC Committee member Peter Smyth checked out the Local History Museum a few weeks ago and has advised that it is well worth a visit.

Waddesden Manor is located only 2 miles from the rally site - this house was built in the French Chateau style for the Rothschild family. Set in a fabulous hilltop garden, this National Trust house is worth a visit (see flyer pdf sent with the bulletin).

If you fancy more sedate country houses, then Claydon Manor (also a National Trust property) is not far away.

Shopping

The world famous "Bicester Village", a factory outlet, is 9 miles north of Quainton on the A41. This shopping village is now so large and busy that you need at least half a day just to look around it, let alone purchase - it also creates its own traffic jams!

"Bicester Avenue", a new smaller complex, based around a lovely garden centre is nearby and features well known shops such as Lakeland, Hobbycraft, Cotswold, etc..

Milton Keynes Central has city-centre style shopping opportunities in an indoor mall, but also includes facilities for real indoor snow skiing, rock climbing, go-karting and a host of other attractions.

Children

For those with youngsters, the Roald Dahl museum in Great Missenden (18 miles away down the A413) will appeal and, although further afield, Beckonscott Model Village (a large excellent model village with running model trains) at Beaconsfield is also worth considering.
*Nigel Halliday*

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## NEWS

**Silverstone Classic**

As indicated previously, we already have a few members/cars booked in to display on the club stand at this event, but there are still a few slots left if anyone else is interested in joining the BEC display and taking part in the Berkeley parade lap of the circuit.

The car club display package offer gives free entry for driver and passenger at around the cost of a single visitor ticket, but will only be in place until the end of May. The club display prices range from £45-£60 daily and £80-£110 for multiple days (all display bookings close on 31st May).

If you wish to display your car, please contact Dave Perrin ( *dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk* ) to confirm that spaces are still available (and so that we know which cars will be present each day); the special code necessary to take advantage of the BEC club display offer is C14113).

Please contact Dave Perrin if you require further clarification of pricing and/or display requirements, etc..
*Nigel Halliday*

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## SPARES

BEC Spares at the BEC Golden Jubilee Rally in May

In addition to those items already ordered by members, a selection of general items from the BEC Spares range will be available on Sunday 18th.
*Nigel Halliday*

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## MARKETPLACE

**Wanted for T60**

Excelsior 328 siamese exhaust pipe.
VR Gearbox.
Differential.
Contact: Rod Porteous (e-mail: Porteous.rod@gmail.com , Tel: 02392-460746,
Mob: 07785-590402)

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## EVENTS

May 10th - 11th: Prescott Hill Climb, see December BEC Bulletin. *www.cleevevale.org.uk*

May 17th - 18th: BEC 50th Anniversary Rally & AGM, Quainton Railway Museum, HP22 4BY.

June 1st: South Hants Vehicle Preservation Society Classic Vehicle Show & Autojumble, Queen Elizabeth Country Park, Hants, PO8 0QE (3 miles South Of Petersfield on the A3). 10.00am – 4.00pm. A family day out with something to interest everyone - over 300 Cars, Commercials, Motorcycles and Military vehicles of all shapes, sizes and makes dating from the early 1900's to 1989. Full refreshment and varied catering facilities, Licensed Bar, Live Band, Punch and Judy, plus other Children's entertainment, Toilets and First Aid facilities. Over 160 Autojumble stalls selling vehicle parts and accessories of all ages, as well as some general stalls and garden plants, etc.

Entry: Adults £5.00, Under-16s FREE

June 7th - 8th: Retro & Classic Show, Old Warden Park, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire. 3 or 4 owners/members expressed an interest in showing their Berkeleys at this event when it was mentioned on Neil Barber's Facebook Berkeley page back in February.

*www.billingshows.com*

July 4th - 6th: Bristol MicroCar Club Rally, Keynsham Rugby Club, BS31 2BE.

*www.bristolmicrocarclub.com*

July 25th - 27th: Silverstone Classic, see January BEC Bulletin. *www.silverstoneclassic.com*

?July 27th?: Hammond Collection (RUMCars) Open Day

(includes an unrestored SA322), Hawkenbury, Kent.

August 10th: Historic Specials Day, Cotswold Wildlife Park, Burford, OX18 4JP.

Annual gathering of kit cars from the Berkeley era.

September 11th - 14th: National MicroCar Rally, Wetherby Racecourse, West Yorkshire, LS22 5EJ. *www.national-microcar-rally.co.uk*

September 20th - 21st: Kop Hill Climb, Princes Risborough, HP27 0LB

*www.kophillclimb.org.uk*

# Berkeley Enthusiasts Club

www.berkeleycarclub.com

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

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*The April 2014 BEC Bulletin was compiled and edited by Dave Perrin*