BERKELEY ENTHUSIASTS CLUB BULLETIN

Chairman's Report

By the time you read this, there will be just under a month until our club's annual Rally/AGM. As with other car clubs, this event should be the 'highlight' of our 2015 activities and, as such, I hope you will all make maximum effort to get your car there or, if not possible, at least attend yourself; this is after all effectively the closing event to our Golden Jubilee year. The organisers have gone to great lengths to make a weekend that caters for all interests, including places to visit and a 'road tour' that takes in 'The Home of the Berkeley' Biggleswade itself!

Those of you interested in the rich motor sport heritage that the marque gained during its brief existence should keep an eye on 'You Tube' over the next few weeks, as the Eastern Counties Motor Club (ECMC) has just discovered a cine film in their archives which was taken on the original 1958 Liege-Brescia-Liege Rally by Berkeley drivers Burt Westwood and Robin Noel Richards.

I have been reliably informed that it includes footage of the cars leaving by 'Silver City Airways' from Lydd in Kent and returning from La Touquet Airport in France, plus scenes of Pat Moss and Ann Wisdom along with Westwood and Richards at the roadside with 'bonnets off'. This is truly a very significant find and not to be missed.

On a more sombre note, Easter marked the last opening days of the Stondon Motor Museum near Henlow Camp, Bedfordshire. The whole collection is to be auctioned off by Brightwells Classic Vehicles of Leominster in two lots. First to go will be 68 classic motorcycles on 29th April, with almost 130 cars and larger vehicles to follow on 10th June.

The June listings include a tidy looking mid-production T60 (albeit with BMC front hub conversion) - any members interested in bidding for this car should log on to the Brightwells website for further information (*www.brightwells.com*). As many of you may remember, the Museum was used as a 'Passage Control' in one of the early IMMR rallies that Daren Jeff and I organised. I'm sure you'll all agree the museum's presence will be sadly missed!

Finally, a reminder that myself and at least two other 'Berks' will be driving down to 'Wheel Nuts' at Stroud on Sunday 26th April, so I hope to see some of you there. As mentioned previously, this event is being held on 'Drive It Day', so even if you're not booked in and can't make it as a visitor, I would encourage you to take your car out for a drive anyway and help publicise the historic vehicle movement - after all, what better classic car is there to be seen in than a Berkeley!

Geoff (Bill) Toyer *geedadtee@ntlworld.com*

NEWS

UPDATE: Local BEC Gatherings: Central Area

Our meetings at the 'Yeoman Of England' in Wootton, Northampton (31 High Street, postcode NN4 6LP) have now moved to the second Monday evening of each month and this arrangement will continue until the Autumn, when we will revert to the second Sunday morning of each month.

NOTE: If you are interested in joining us, please make contact first to confirm that there will be a Berkeley presence, as attendance can vary due to holidays and other committments.

Geoff (Bill) Toyer *geedadtee@ntlworld.com*

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UPDATE: BEC 2015 Rally & AGM, Saturday/Sunday 16th/17th May

There has been very limited response to our request for members to book the post-AGM meal. To clarify, there will be no option to order meals on the night, as our chosen venue The Queen's Head (close to the rally site) no longer serves food on a regular basis and will be shipping the meals in specially from their sister pub.

The preference is for hot meals and I will be finalising our booking next weekend or soon after, so please contact me as soon as possible if you want to join us for the Saturday evening meal. Will those members who have already made contact, but didn't advise their specific requirements, therefore please also let me know as soon as possible (UK members; see the attached Main Menu).

By the time you read this, I will also have distributed a dozen posters around Biggleswade and done the Berkeley Close leaflet drop, so we hope to see a few enthusiastic locals during stops on the Sunday road run. As per the poster elsewhere in this bulletin (kindly created for us by Mike Rhodes), the plan is now to stop off in the Market Square for approximately 2 hours.

Geoff Dabrowa *BECmembership@gmail.com*

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Bulletin Distribution

All current BEC members except one are now receiving the Monthly Bulletins, either by direct email, passed on to them by a fellow member or by post - I currently send printed copies to nine members.

If any other members would prefer a printed copy rather than e-mail, they just need to provide the necessary stamps - contact me for further details.

Geoff Dabrowa *BECmembership@gmail.com*

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They're coming home!



Come and see the cars that Biggleswade built.

Between 11:30 and 1:00 the Berkeley Enthusiasts Club will be in the Market Square where you can chat to the owners about the cars that were made in the town in the late 50s.

For more information contact Geoff Dabrowa 01638780500 or becmembership@googlemail.com

EVENTS

UPDATE: Cholmondeley Pageant of Power, 12th-14th June

As mentioned last month, we already have a B105 and a T60 booked in, but would like more Berkeleys on our stand if posible, so please consider bringing your car or restoration project along to this brilliant event, even if it is just for one or two days, rather than all three. It would also be handy to have a few helping hands to man the stand, even if you can't bring a car.

Further to the details given in the March BEC bulletin, remember that you need to apply before the end of April to take advantage of the club ticket offer:-

Ticket	Club Discount (until 30th April)	Normal Price (until 30th April)
Friday	£17.50	£27
Saturday	£20	£37
Sunday	£17.50	£27
3-Day Weekend	£50	£89

NOTE: Event launch tickets have already sold out, so the Normal prices above are higher than those indicated last month, but this does not effect the club discount prices.

Children under 4 are free and do not require a ticket for the event, but Children's tickets (4-15 years) are also free if bought before April 30th.

To book, go to *www.cpop.co.uk* , enter the special BEC code (**CPOPBEC)** in the 'Discount Code' box, click on the adjacent APPLY button, select your ticket requirements and then press the CONTINUE bar below to proceed.

If camping or caravanning, it is then possible to book your pitch on the Extras page:-

Select Arrival Date (Thursday and Friday are free, but you need to book/pay for Saturday and/or Sunday), Pitch Type (Tent @£25/night or Caravan @£30/night) and Number of Nights (1 - 2). At this point, you can also select Electric Hook-Up (£25 regardless of duration of stay) and book an Event Programme (£8, to be collected at the event).

The organisers will be providing a Car Club Car Pass in pdf form which (when available) will be forwarded to those members displaying their Berkeleys on the club stand. You will also automatically receive a free public car pass, which can be passed on to friends or family if you wish.

Gates open each day at 8am.

Concerts start at 6pm: Friday (Rick Parfitt Jnr. Band) & Saturday (X-Factor's Tenors of Rock).

Remember, all ticket prices increase substantially if booked after the 30th April, with the full price 3-day ticket going up to £105, so make sure you get in before 1st May!

Nigel Halliday

ECMC Autosolo

On 19th July at RAF Woodbridge, Suffolk the Eastern Counties Motor Club will be holding an Autosolo under an MSA 'Taster' permit. The aim is to encourage new converts and it allows you to enter any four wheel Berkeley without being a member of an MSA affiliated club.

As you will be aware from previous features in the club magazine, the ECMC are very Berkeley friendly, so it would be nice to get a BEC 'team' there?

If interested, please contact me for further details.

Geoff (Bill) Toyer *geedadtee@ntlworld.com*

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UPDATE: Silverstone Classic, 24th-26th July

The cut-off date for 'Early Bird' tickets has now passed and we have a few cars booked into the club stand over the weekend, however, club discount tickets will continue to be available until midnight on 31st May.

As indicated previously, the Club Display Package (BEC booking code C1525104) includes the infield vehicle pass for your Berkeley plus 2 tickets, effectively giving members a 50% saving over the normal cost of two adult tickets. So, if you would like to join us and display your Berkeley on the club stand for the whole weekend (or just one or two days), then please contact Daren Jeff (see below) as soon as possible after booking your tickets, so that we know how many cars to expect.

Tickets	Club Display Package (2 Adults) (until 31st May)	Visitor Tickets (until 23rd July)	
		Adult	Children (aged 6 to 16)
Friday	£46	£40	£5.50
Saturday	£70	£62	£5.50
Sunday	£62	£52	£5.50
2 Day Fri/Sat	£82	£82	?
2 Day Sat/Sun	£93	£93	?
3 Day Weekend	£114	£114	£11

Tickets for Children under 6 are FREE.

See the March Bulletin or *http://www.silverstoneclassic.com* for further details of event attractions and camping, etc..

NOTE: Updates on number of Berkeleys attending will be included in future bulletins.

Daren Jeff *darenjeff@hotmail.com*

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Transatlantic 175: Classic Car Cavalcade, 5th July

This year the Cunard shipping line celebrates its 175th anniversary at its ancestral home of Liverpool and the three current Cunard liners Mary, Elizabeth and Victoria will all be visiting at the end of May. As part of the celebrations, a range of cultural events will be spanning

Liverpool's waterfront and historic docks over the weekend of 4th/5th July, during which apparently:-

"The city will become a creative culture clash between the home-grown music, fashion, art, design, food and film of the 19th, 20th and 21st century influences that have travelled across the pond from the ports of Halifax Nova Scotia, Boston and New York since Samuel Cunard's first crossing on 4 July, 1840."

Be that as it may, the celebrations will include a Classic Car Cavalcade (with approximately 175 vehicles in total) and this will include a microcar section. The organisers hope to have one example of every microcar built, so obviously that should include a Berkeley or two. Participant's cars will be displayed on the Pier Head in front of the Three Graces and then take part in a journey around the city centre taking in Liverpool's iconic landmarks. If any members are interested in taking part, please go to *www.cultureliverpool.co.uk/one-magnificent-city/transatlantic-175-from-the-mersey-to-manhattan/* for further details and application form.

Location: Pier Head, Liverpool, L3 1BY. Event Time: 11:00am – 5:00pm

NOTE: All vehicles must arrive between 8:00am and 10:00am and must remain in their allocated space at the Pier Head until instructions to form up for the cavalcade are given.

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2015 Events Listing

April 26th: FBHVC Drive It Day, events across UK promoting awareness of historic vehicles.

April 26th: **'Wheel Nuts' Classic Car & Bike Show**, St. Rose's School, Stroud, GL5 4AP.
See Oct '14 & Jan, Feb '15 Bulletins.
Contact: Dave Rich (*2kats@tiscali.co.uk*).

April 26th: MK Classic Car Tour. See Dec '14 Bulletin.

May 9th/10th: Prescott Hill Climb, Cheltenham. See Dec '14 Bulletin. *www.cleevevale.org.uk*

May 16th/17th: **BEC Rally & AGM**, Fowlmere, near Royston, Herts.
See Mar '15 Bulletin and above for further details.

May 23rd: Classic Bike Show & Autojumble, Kempton Park, Sunbury-on-Thames (Jn 1 of M3).

May 30th/31st: Asparafest, Evesham, Worcestershire. See Dec '14 Bulletin.

June 6th: Classic Transport Picnic, Weston, Herts. See Feb '15 Bulletin.

June 7th: SHVPS Classic Vehicle Show & Autojumble, Queen Elizabeth Country Park, Hants.

June 7th: Watford Classic Car Show, Bushey Sports Club, Herts, WD23 2TR.
See Mar '15 Bulletin.

June 12th - 14th: **Cholmondeley Pageant of Power**, Malpas, Cheshire, SY14 8AQ.
See future bulletin for further details. *www.cpop.co.uk*
Contact: Nigel Halliday via Dave Perrin (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*)

June 13th - 20th: East Anglian MicroCar Club Rally, Great Yarmouth. All enthusiasts welcome.

July 3rd - 5th: Bristol MicroCar Club Rally, Keynsham Rugby Club, BS31 2BE.
www.bristolmicrocarclub.com

July 5th: T175 Classic Car Cavalcade, Liverpool. See above for further details.

July 11th/12th: Isetta Owners Club Rally, Bubblecar Museum, Boston. See Feb '15 Bulletin.

July 18th/19th: Classic Nostalgia, Shelsey Walsh Hill Climb. See Feb '15 Bulletin.

July 19th: **ECMC Autosolo**, RAF Woodbridge, Suffolk. See above for further details.

July 24th - 26th: **Silverstone Classic**, Towcester, Northampton, NN12 8TN.
See Mar '15 Bulletin & above for further details. *www.silverstoneclassic.com*
Contact: Daren Jeff (*darenjeff@hotmail.com*)

July 26th?: Hammond Collection (RUMCars) Open Day
(includes an unrestored SA322), Hawkenbury, Kent.

August 8th/9th: Classic Bike Clubs Show, Donnington Park, Derby.
www.vjmc-northants.co.uk/classicclubs.htm

August 9th?: Historic Specials Day, Cotswold Wildlife Park, Burford, OX18 4JP.
Annual gathering of kit cars from the Berkeley era.

September 3rd - 6th: **National MicroCar Rally**, Hatton Country World, Warwick, CV35 8XA.
www.national-microcar-rally.co.uk

September 6th: Rare Breeds Motor Show, Haynes Motor Museum, Sparkford,
Somerset, BA22 7LH. *www.haynesmotormuseum.com*

September 6th: Vintage & Classic Vehicle Festival, The Play Close, Melton Mowbray,
Leicestershire, LE13 1GH. See Mar '5 Bulletin. *www.meltonvehiclefestival.org.uk*

September 13th: Classic Car Show, Aylesford Priory, Kent. *www.kentsclassiccarshow.co.uk*

September 19th: Gamlingay Show, Gamlingay Village College, Station Road, Gamlingay,
Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 3HD. *www.gamlingayshow.co.uk*

September 19th/20th: **Kop Hill Climb**, Princes Risborough, near Aylesbury,
Buckinghamshire, HP27 0LB. *www.kophillclimb.org.uk*
Contact: Nigel Halliday via Dave Perrin (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*)

September 26th/27th: **Pistons & Props**, Sywell Aerodrome, Hall Farm, Sywell,
Northampton, NN6 0BN. *www.sywellclassic.co.uk*
Contact: Geoff Toyer (*geedadtee@ntlworld.com*)

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AGM Spares Availbility

As indicated last month, the BEC spares stand will only be at the AGM on Saturday 16th May. Any members wishing to purchase and/or collect spares, need to send their order to the BEC Spares Officer Nigel Halliday or e-mail Dave Perrin (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*), as larger

items, secondhand parts, windscreen glass, etc. are held in our storage facility and therefore not readily accessible.

Dynastart Nuts

Retaining nuts (Part No. 3157) for the Siba Dynastart rotors on Excelsior twin & triple engines are now back in stock. These long shank nuts hold the rotor onto the crankshaft taper and also form the mounting for the points cam. The revised price is £12.00 each plus £1.50 UK p&p.

SE 328 Hoods

The supply of well fitting soft top hoods for the 'Sports' SA322s, SE328s and early-SE492s (i.e. all models with the sloping leading on the doors) has been severely restricted in recent years, as the last batch sourced from Don Hoods in Birmingham by Dave Ratner were a decidedly poor fit!

With thanks to Graham Higgs (once again) some research has recently been carried out on hoods, hood frame 'sticks' and sidescreens, with the hope that we can address the situation.

Any members considering purchasing a soft top hood for these early four wheelers are therefore requested to contact BEC Spares as soon as possible, as we are in the process of putting a batch order together.

Reproduction Excelsior Pistons: Problems?

Please keep your comments coming in re. any problems you have encountered with the JP or other reproduction pistons for Excelsior engines. As indicated previously, the BEC is very keen to ascertain the true basis of the hearsay reports of problems and the apparent poor reputation of these items and do our best to persuade the manufacturer to improve them.

Siba Dynastarts & Control Boxes

As most Excelsior owning members know, the Siba dynastarts and control boxes are not the most common of parts and are consequently expensive when found secondhand or listed on e-bay. Furthermore, not all of the Berkeley Siba parts are compatible with the variants fitted to other Siba-equipped microcars.

Recently, we have heard reports of specialists in the UK starting to make solid state replacements/conversions for the Siba control boxes and other specialist auto electricians who can rebuild the heavy dynastart rotors and field coils.

Could any members with knowledge of any specific companies or individuals able to offer these services please let us know more.

Steini Electronic Ignitions

These high quality German made electronic ignition conversions developed by Patrick Steinhauser (in conjunction with BEC member Harry Connors) have assisted in getting many Excelsior twin and triple engines back on the road in recent years. Sadly, however, Patrick died a few years ago and his son has not been so keen to manufacture the three cylinder unit (due to its mechanical complexity) and when he has, the cost has been very high at over £200 per set.

The BEC is keen to establish how much current demand there is for these triple sets at present, so, again, please make contact listing how many sets you need.

Nigel Halliday

MARKETPLACE

1958 SE328









Rare opportunity to purchase a late model 'Sports' 328 (very unusual in the UK, because most of them were exported). Believed to have twin carbs and 4-speed TR gearbox.

Bought and restored in 1975 (photographic record available), but was last on the road in 1979. As shown above, bodywork requires attention to crazing and apparent historic light damage. Currently a rolling shell; engine, doors and various other parts having been removed 20 years ago, but all safely stored away, so should be relatively straightforward restoration project.

Has great sentimental value to the owner, as it was her late father's car, so must go to a genuine UK member willing/able to make an immediate start on its restoration and intending to treasure it for many years to come, as she wants to see it back on the road and being used. Believed to be located in the Southampton area.

Nigel is planning to view the car shortly, to assess its value and the likely level of work required, but in the meantime, please contact Geoff Dabrowa (*BECmembership@gmail.com*) for further pictures and to express an interest.

Various Used Fibreglass Sections & Panels

I have arranged purchase of a collection of mostly SE328/early-SE492 bodywork in order to get parts for one of my projects, so will need to pass on the remaining items, as shown below:-








- Drastically modified front section (A-posts reworked to vertical and front 'bar' removed).
- Incomplete front section (missing everything behind the bonnet aperture).
- Pair of outside front wings.
- Two rear compartment covers.
- Pair of modified doors (converted to vertical leading edge).
- Three bonnets.
- Rear section.
- T60 hard top (no glass or rear screen).

At the time of writing I have yet to collect these parts, so cannot give any detail indication of condition beyond the fact that they are probably all in need of at least minor attention and that none of the body sections still have their alloy panels bonded in.

Reasonable offers accepted for any or all of the above - please ring and I'm sure we can come to an agreement on price.

Geoff Toyer, Northampton, Mob: 07773-119216.

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Wanted for Restoration of Early SE328

Steering column gearchange quadrant, lever, shaft, knuckles and any other components.

Neil Barber, Bath, Mob: 07816-351491.

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Wanted for Restoration of Early SE492

Desperately seeking 2-stick 3-hoop hood frame (i.e. as fitted to SE328s and early-SE492s with two sockets each side), to complete the restoration of my sloping door 'Sports' 492.

I am also in need of an early SE328 type engine cradle for the HJR/TR gearbox (with angled plate on each end of the front cross-tube).

Would consider exchange for other parts or other hood frame.

Contact: Graham Higgs, Worcester, Tel: 01905-350632.

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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 April 2015 BEC Bulletin was compiled and edited by Dave Perrin