BERKELEY ENTHUSIASTS CLUB BULLETIN

Chairman's Report

Looking through this coming rally season's event list I see that, yet again, there are an awful lot of events which the aspiring 'Berkeletteer' can choose to attend early on in the year ... and in close proximity date wise! April 3rd sees the re-establishment of a Classic Motor Show at Old Warden, Bedfordshire; Daren Jeff and I attended a similar event there some years ago, it's a very good venue and a few members are already planning to attend, so why not join them?

Drive It Day, April 24th, 'Wheel Nuts' in Stroud, Gloucestershire, which once again has an official club presence. It is a fundraiser for charity (the organisers do not charge or make money from those displaying their classic cars and motorcycles) the money they get comes entirely from sponsors, traders' stalls and public entrance on the gate and they usually attract over four hundred classic vehicles. Graham Higgs, Neil Barber and I decided to support this event a couple of years ago when our then-new member Dave Rich told us about it. We all thought that it was about time to drum up some Berkeley interest in that part of the country and, as always, there was huge interest in our display, but alas not one BEC member bothered to come along to say hello and support us! Our intrepid Membership Secretary and his 'pard' Barry Jones made the very long trek from East Anglia last year, actually driving their cars there and back! Who says that Berkeleys aren't reliable! That took the number of Berks up to seven, but alas, yet again, no membership support from that area. Let's hope it'll be third time lucky this year?

May 14th-15th sees the ever popular Prescott Classic Hillclimb. Although this is not an official BEC event, it does however attract those of our membership with a 'sporting bent'. The main hill run day is Sunday, so most attendees travel down early for the day. I'm led to believe that at least four Berkeleys have already signed up, but that there are still spaces left on the hill run. I can assure you that once you've taken your Berk up this historic track, you'll be forever smitten, as it can really tax your driving skills!

May 20th-22nd sees our very own BEC Rally & AGM, which this year should be a must for all members as we will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of the launch of the SA322. It is hoped that we can get as many surviving examples of this model there as possible, whether road going, trailered, or in any stage of restoration. I therefore ask all owners of this now rare model to do their utmost to help us achieve this goal. Further details of the event will be posted in the Bulletin nearer the time, so keep your eyes on future issues.

I'll preview other events as they unfold during the year.

Lastly, just a reminder to be ever vigilant if you're intending to sell or buy a Berkeley, as that pest 'Ted' Hardy is still at large trying to profiteer from trusting owners. If in any doubt always

contact a club official first - they will give you an honest appraisal of what your car is worth or what you should reasonably expect to pay if considering a purchase.

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

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NEWS

Classic Motor Show, Old Warden, Sunday 3rd April 2016

Re. feature in the December bulletin, the following members have already committed to attend, so there will definitely be a club stand at this event at the Old Warden Aerodrome near Biggleswade:-

- Geoff Dabrowa: SA322
- Barry Jones: T60 (soft top).
- Colin Pears T60 (hard top).
- Dave Richardson T60 (Mini powered).

Geoff has volunteered to handle the booking arrangements, so please contact him as soon as possible (*BECMembership@gmail.com*) if you would like to add your Berkeley to the club display.

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Wheel Nuts (Drive It Day), Sunday 24th April 2016

Re. feature in the November 2015 bulletin, I have now received the application form for this charity Classic Vehicle Show in the grounds of St. Rose's School (Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL5 4AP).

Four members have already 'signed up' to join me, plus another two hopefuls, but that still leaves at least three gaps on the BEC stand (our target this year being ten cars). I will be sending in the paperwork over the next week or so and need to specify the car/owner details to be able to confirm our provisional booking, so, if you would like to join us and display your Berkeley, please contact me as soon as possible. NOTE: As indicated previously, exhibitors must be on site by 10am (entry is by a voluntary donation) and no vehicle movement is allowed while the show is open to the public (11am to 4pm).

Dave Rich *2kats@tiscali.co.uk*

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Classic Motorcycle Show, Stafford, 23rd/24th April

Don't forget that our close club relations the 'Talisman Telegraph' Excelsior club and the REOC (Royal Enfield Owners Club) always put on a good display of Excelsior and Enfield twins for this annual Show at Staffordshire County Showground (postcode ST18 0BD). It is also generally regarded as the biggest/best UK autojumble of the year, although the likelihood of finding Berkeley-compatible British Anzani, Excelsior or Enfield Super Meteor/Constellation spares must still be relatively slim.

Gates: 09:00-18:00 Saturday and 09:00-17:00 Sunday. Free parking.
Tickets per day: 'Adults': £14, Senior Citizens: £13 and Under-12s: £4.

Advance tickets: £12, £11 and £3 respectively (available until midnight on Tuesday 19th April, see website *www.classicbikeshows.com*).

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Goodwood Breakfast Club Meeting, Sunday 1st May

Last month we mentioned that no Berkeley had ever attended the Goodwood summertime breakfast meetings and suggested that it would be a good idea to address this oversight during 2016. However, shortly after the bulletin been issued (based on the 2014 and 2015 Goodwood programme), the Goodwood organisers announced a revised schedule for 2016! Rather than being in June, 'Soft Top Sunday' will now be on May 1st this year, although we also appear to have the option of attending 'Thoroughbred Sunday' on 7th August.

We hope to have confirmation of the latter option shortly, but in the meantime (bearing in mind the healthy reponse to that original suggestion) we would like interested members to let us know which gathering(s) they hope to be able to attend.

As indicated previously, the Breakfast Club meetings last from 7 to 11 on Sunday mornings. There are plenty of nearby campsites around the South Downs, Chichester Harbour or Hayling Island, so there is the possibility of staying locally overnight (in readiness for the early start), with breakfast at the event and the possibility of a mid-day Barbeque or communal meal before we all head our separate ways. As before, please contact Dave Perrin with any ideas and/or to register interest in being part of a group BEC presence (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*) - all suggestions welcome!

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Valence Vintage Car Show & Hill Climb Demo, Sunday 15th May

This charity event is held within the grounds of Valence School, Westerham, Kent (postcode TN16 1QN) and is organised by the 'Friends of Valence'. Proceeds go to the school, which has over 200 staff providing specialist teaching, social care, therapies and nursing care for children and young people aged 4 to 19 with physical disabilities and complex medical needs. "Our overall aim is to enable every child and young person to achieve meaningful independence. Students flourish in a supportive but challenging environment, making good educational progress and achieving a range of accreditation as they get older. There is excellent support to enable students to achieve functional communication, mobility and skills for daily living."

The event promises a huge selection of pre-Seventies cars on display (including Club areas), plus autojumble stalls and the chance to take a spin around the school grounds in classic cars. This year also sees the reintroduction of untimed 'demonstration' runs up the Hill Climb. The climb is being organised by Sevenoaks & District Car Club and is open to 3 and 4 wheelers, but they must be insured and all occupants must wear crash helmets.

Gates: 10:00 to 16:00. Ample parking is available and there will be a choice of food stalls, plus a licensed bar.

Admission: Visitors: £3 per person (under 3's free) or £10 family ticket,
Exhibitors: £10 per car, Hill: £3 per Climb (payable on the day).

For further details and booking details see *www.friendsofvalence.com* .

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Classic Vehicle Show & Autojumble, Sunday 5th June

This well established event organised by the South Hants Vehicle Preservation Society is located at Queen Elizabeth Country Park, Gravel Hill, Horndean, Hants (3 miles South of Petersfield on the A3, postcode PO8 0QE).

It offers a family day out with something to interest everyone, with over 300 Cars, Commercials, Motorcycles and Military Vehicles of all shapes, sizes and makes dating from the early 1900s to 1990. Over 160 Autojumble stalls selling vehicle parts and accessories of all ages, as well as some general stalls with garden plants, etc.. Full refreshment and varied catering facilities, Licensed Bar, Live band, Punch & Judy plus other Children's entertainment, Toilets and First Aid facilities. Easy access and free public car parking on site.

Gates: 10:00 – 16:00. Entry: Adults: £5.00, Under-16s: Free, Website: *www.shvps.org.uk* .

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The Famous Ace Café

Fancy a good breakfast when you are in London? The Ace Café on the North Circular road in North West London serves excellent traditional English breakfast at very reasonable rates. Not only that, but there is usually some interesting machinery on display outside in the car park ... and inside, where I found this Berkeley era Royal Enfield with 629cc twin engine (as fitted to B95/105s), when I popped in during early January!



As well as breakfasts, there are classic car and/or motorcycle meets/events at the café virtually every night of the year! There are also road runs most summer weekends to Brighton and elsewhere, which are just perfect for Berkeleys.

See website *www.ace-cafe-london.com* for further details.
Nigel Halliday

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SPARES

T60 Chassis Members & Sills

We are delighted to report that our latest spare part is selling like the proverbial 'hot cakes', with most of the initial batch of 10 sets sold in just two weeks! We are therefore seriously considering manufacture of a further batch in 2017. However, in the meantime, any members in imminent need of a set to rebuild their bucket seat T60 are advised to make contact with

Dave Perrin (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk)* or Nigel Halliday immediately to reserve one of the two or three remaining sets.

As indicated previously, the panels are as near to original specification as is feasible and the price is £350 per set, which includes the two side sills (with unique bucket seat cut out), the gear lever crossmember, the footwell/engine bay bulkhead crossmember and the central seat rail with seat peg location strips. Delivery is the difficult part, as the sills are over 4 ft long and weight of a set is approaching 20kg, so a parcel delivery service is likely to charge £60 plus. The best option is therefore collection from BEC Spares (Gerrards Cross), Dave Perrin (near Portsmouth) or at the BEC Surrey meeting (near Guildford), although delivery to certain 2016 events (including the BEC Rally at Copt Oak, near Leicester in May) can probably be arranged given sufficient notice to be able to relay a set to a willing volunteer.

To clarify the application, these components are direct replacements for the steel chassis metalwork fitted to all later T60s with cut-outs for bucket seats, which are believed to have chassis numbers from 600 onwards and were made from January 1960. The bodyshells of these cars have half-round channels running along the underside of the 'punt' floor section from corner of the front wheel arch back to the flanged joint between punt and rear section (i.e. following the line of the sill walls). Earlier T60s from approx Aug 1959 to Jan 1960 were all supplied with aluminium crossmembers, but the factory changed the sills from aluminium to steel at some point during production of those first 599 cars. BEC Spares is currently researching with a view to possible remanufacture of these components - see below.

Door Hinges

Further to our recent bulletin announcement, the chrome external door hinges (for Sports SA322, SE328 and early-SE492 models) and the alloy external door hinges for later-T60s are now back in stock:-

- 'Sports' chrome external door hinges. ..... £60 per pair, plus £5.00 UK p&p.
- T60 alloy external door hinges including fixings. ..... £85 per pair, plus £5.00 UK p&p.

Gasket Sets

Also back in stock are Excelsior engine and carburettor gasket sets:-

- Excelsior 328cc twin cylinder gaskets. ..... £13.00 per set, plus £1.00 UK p&p.
- Amal 376 carb gaskets. ..... £2.50 per set, plus SAE (UK).

NOTE: Gaskets sets for the triple 492cc engine can also be assembled upon request.

Early T60 Chassis Metalwork: Your Help Required

The extensive research carried out into the late T60 chassis components revealed just how complicated these seemingly simple assemblies actually are! Although we originally considered having 6 sets manufactured we eventually took a chance with our limited club funds and ordered 10 sets to achieve a price break – we are so glad we did as they have nearly all been sold or reserved to owners of late T60s or T60/4s. As mentioned above, we are going to have to order a further batch in 2017, once we have progressed restocking of other spares, etc..

As a result of this exercise, we have learnt that there is also demand from members restoring the earlier bench seat model T60s, which were fitted with all alloy chassis members or the

hybrid mix of steel sill side members with alloy crossmembers on later cars.

In order to progress this project we would like to hear from all T60 owning members with chassis number below 600. Once we have learnt more about the subtle variations in these early T60s, we will be able to consider the remanufacture of some new chassis components.

Gear Change Quadrants

We are also in the early stages of organising manufacture of a batch of new floor mounted gear change quadrants to suit the later cars with the 4 speed VR gearbox. Please contact me or Dave Perrin (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*) to register interest, so that we can judge realistic quantity.
Nigel Halliday

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EVENTS

2016 Events Listing

April 3rd: Classic Motor Show, Old Warden. See Dec '15 bulletin and above for details.
www.classicmotorshows.co.uk

April 24th: FBHVC Drive It Day, events across UK promoting awareness of historic vehicles.

April 24th: 'Wheel Nuts' Classic Car & Bike Show, Stroud, GL5 4AP.
See Nov '15 bulletin and above for details.

April 24th: Croydon Rotary Club 'Classic Car Run' (Dorking to Tangmere).
See Nov '15 bulletin for details.

May 1st: 'Soft Top' Breakfast Club, Goodwood Motor Circuit, West Sussex.
See Dec '15 bulletin and above.

May 14th/15th: Prescott Hill Climb, Cheltenham. See Sept '15 bulletin for details.
www.cleevevale.org.uk

May 20th-22nd: **BEC Rally & AGM**, Copt Oak Memorial Hall, Leicester.
See July '15 bulletin for advance details.

June 5th: SHVPS Classic Vehicle Show & Autojumble, Queen Elizabeth Country Park, Hants.
See above. *www.shvps.org.uk*

July 1st - 3rd: Bristol MicroCar Club Rally, Keynsham Rugby Club, BS31 2BE.
www.bristolmicrocarclub.com

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MARKETPLACE

For Sale: Garage Clearance

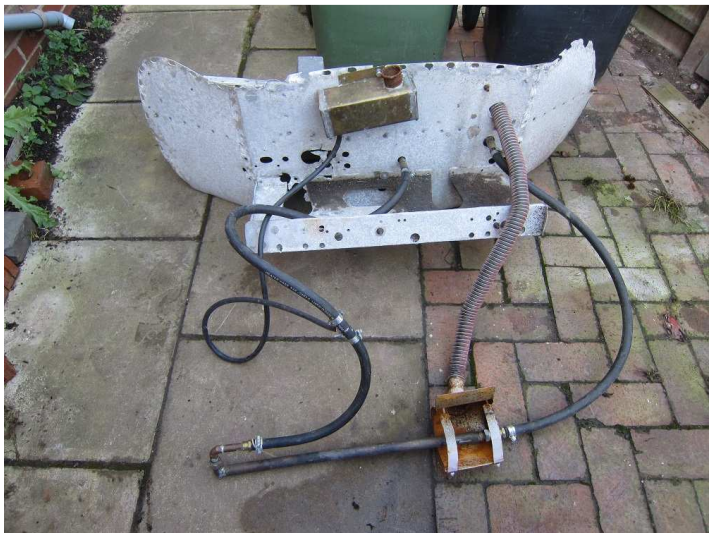
1. Berkeley Heater My trial build based on the factory installation drawings and component details included in the factory parts book (unspecified detail made up by me). Fitted to tatty alloy parcel shelf, firewall and engine bay tray (none of which are fit for use in a rebuild, but

could be useful as patterns for rebuild of an SE328 or early SE492). This was a concept proving exercise and was seen to be working and raising temperature a year or so ago when I simulated exhaust heat using a blow torch. It is designed to work with the across-the-front 'expansion box' exhaust system (with open tube passing through the middle) and works on the thermosyphon principle (i.e. water heated by the exhaust rises into the car, while cooler more dense water that has already given up its heat heads back down to the exhaust inlet to be reheated). It leaked slightly due to some rushed soldering and has been stored outside since that trial run, so now also a bit rusty, but would be a good basis for someone interested in making a tidy version for their car - not sure how effective it would actually be, but every little helps on those cold winter days!

Any reasonable offer accepted.

2. Pair of Berkeley Wheels To keep your car mobile while getting yours painted perhaps? ... or for the very desperate! One with 'good' centre, the other one with 'good' rim.

Any reasonable offer accepted.









3. Late T60 Suspension Bridge Parts Any reasonable offer accepted.

4. SE328 Seat Frame (rusty) £30.

5. Sidescreen Frames (steel, incomplete) Prototypes made as part of my trial build of the factory coupe. Any reasonable offer accepted.

6. Sidescreens (alloy) Pair of homemade sliding 'glass' sidescreens ('pin' type). £30.

7. Berkeley Steering Wheel Has the usual splits, so in need of full restoration. £50.





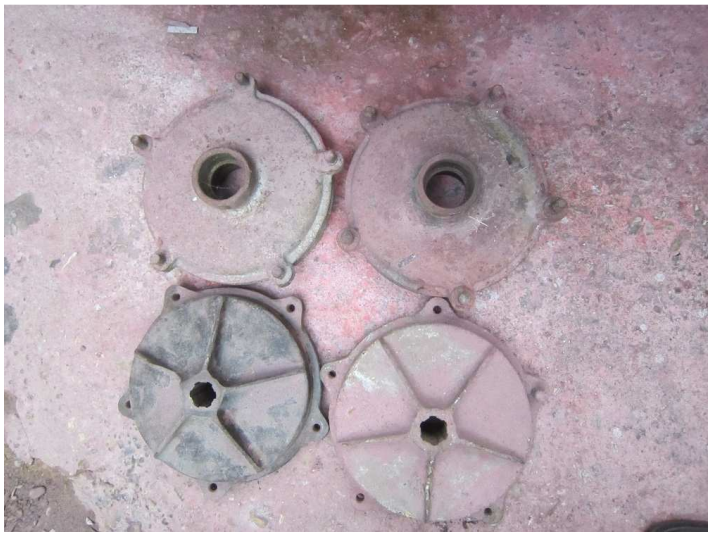



8. Three Steering Columns (later short type) One complete with drag link: £75. One complete, but missing drag link: £55. One without its drop arm shaft and drag link: £40.

9. SE492 'Expansion Box' Exhaust Early type with high up headers, has been cut about and welded badly. Good for a pattern or could be used if you're not fussy: £50.

10. Brake Drums Two rears and two late type ribbed fronts. Will need work. Job lot: £50.



Contact: Graham Higgs, Worcester, Tel: 01905-350632, e-mail: *higgs.graham@gmail.com* .

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For Sale: Tyres

Five 135x12 tubeless radial tyres available in two lots (can arrange MyHermes delivery at cost, as indicated below, or collection from near Newmarket):-

- One unused (7mm tread), plus two VGC (5mm tread). ..... £45, plus £10 delivery.
- Two VGC (5mm tread). ..... £25, plus £8 delivery.

Contact: Geoff Dabrowa, Tel: 01638-70500, e-mail: *geoffdabrowa@hotmail.co.uk*

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Wanted: Pistons

Does anyone have a pair of used, but serviceable +20 pistons for my T60 engine rebuild?

Please contact: Pete Bassett, (Deal, Kent), Tel: 01304-363886, *petedebbassett@yahoo.co.uk* .

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Event News, For Sale/Wanted, etc.

NOTE: If you wish to place a News Item or an Advertisement in the BEC Bulletin, please contact Dave Perrin (*dp_berkeley@yahoo.co.uk*).

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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 2016 BEC Bulletin was compiled and edited by Dave Perrin