

Austin



Owners club Newsletter January 2013

Hi folks; At the time of writing we seem to be well in the grips of winter, not great weather for driving classic cars or for that matter working on them. Luckily my car is now under cover and progressing well, more on that later.

I recently had the pleasure of a ride in Richard Fawthrop's car, (Pictured below) to my shame it has been a while since I have had the pleasure of a ride in a 3-Litre, the experience was brilliant and a big boost to me in wanting to get my car on the road as soon as possible. Richards's car was a British Leyland car when new and is reputed to have been Lord Stokes personal transport; there is some history in support of this which is lovely.

A very nice example of a 3-Litre, it is also a very late car and is fitted with the black engine and a steering lock.



MOT Proposed changes;

Much has been written about of late about proposed changes to the mot for classic vehicles. The ever meddling stream of legislation from Brussels wanted a standard mot for across the EEC. One of the proposals was the "Vehicles must remain unaltered with regard to engine, steering, suspension and braking systems." Part of the proposal was that modified cars could no longer be considered as classic cars if they were modified. This could have been quite serious if left unchallenged. The regulation even went as far as a car fitted with drum brakes couldn't have disc brakes fitted from a later car. Even tyres were discussed, that means we would all have to go back onto Dunlop SP68's! Fortunately it was challenged and changed; classic vehicles have now been discounted from the legislation due to a significant change in the wording. It was changed from a "Regulation," this means it is legal and has to be followed to a "Directive" which means Governments can apply their own laws.

Cars previously unknown to us are still appearing at quite frequent intervals, prices for nice examples are currently very strong indeed. Pictured below is one example which has recently appeared on ebay for £11990. I must say it is a stunning example with nice history and low mileage.



FBHVC and Austin Federation

I have been looking into the possibility of joining either/both of these bodies from the club's point of view.

There is of course a cost involved, the Austin Federation at this stage looks more in tune with what we are doing, and it is also the cheaper of the two. I feel belonging to one of these types of official bodies is of value to the club. My aim to keep the club free to members will always remain true so I may look at getting some merchandise available to help with the cost of this, assuming we want to go for it. Any merchandise would of course be discounted for members. I would welcome anyone's feedback on the above. The website is surprisingly cheap to run and I will stand the cost of that from my own pocket anyway.

The website has had over 30,000 hits since going live in May 2012, this is remarkable really. I have had a lot of positive feedback about the site which was nice; I am not a web designer, just a "bloke who had a try," so it has been very rewarding.

My progress with CGU473H

This has been a somewhat active time to say the least. I booked the car in for her respray which was scheduled to be at the end of December. In November I sustained a knee problem which took me out of work and pretty much stopped me walking. This of course meant I lost quite a lot of work time, the bodyshop called and put the job back which sort of helped. Said bodyshop then called two weeks later and said the first date was ok! Many hours were spent trying to make the due date which thankfully I did. I wanted a particular finish which meant expensive paint and quite a lot of intensive labour, and of course quite a large bill. That said I am so pleased with the result, it is very shiny indeed. The picture below was taken just after the bonnet, boot and doors were refitted. I am now a good way into the long process of re-assembly and on target for a drive in the warm spring sunshine.



It has been many years since there has been a significant gathering of 3-Litre's. One very popular event from all those years ago is the BMC day at Ferry meadows in Peterborough. A large annual event celebrating all things BMC, this year the event is held on Sunday 5th August. Some members have expressed an interest in attending this year, anyone up for it? More details can be seen at their website; <http://www.bmcbl rally.co.uk/2.html>

Barring any disasters I plan on going this year, hope to see some of you there.

One car which has recently come to light is WAE 559H, this car used to belong to Ron Fishlock. A very desirable manual/overdrive car, which I did describe in a 1996 club magazine as possibly the best car in the club at the time. Now owned by long term 3-Litre owner and club member Steve Haury. The car had fallen on hard times and was found by Steve sitting in a field in Yorkshire, duly brought home the car is now undergoing restoration, well done Steve.



Classic Car Buyer recently did a "When did you last see one of these?" about 3-Litre's. A nice article, and so nice to see the cars in the press as well. I did e-mail in and thank them and mentioned the website and the club; they have mentioned us also mentioned the possibility of doing a feature on 3-Litre's at some point. The day CCB came out recorded the highest number of website hits we have ever had by the way.

Crossway Models have started producing the 3-litre models again, a bare white metal kit if you fancy one is £50 from their shop on ebay, a built one is about £120.

Spares.

I have started to gather up a few small parts again, nothing on the scale of previous years, I am also concentrating on the supply chain with specialist suppliers now, details of many of these are on the website links page.

Well that's it for this time folks, I value your thoughts about the FBHVC or Austin Federation membership, and about any merchandise you might like to see, and of course about a possible meet up at Ferry Meadows BMC day in August. I may try and make Cofton Park Pride of Longbridge day in April too if the car is finished, anyone else going?

Happy 3-Litre-ing Kind regards

Neil