



# WETHERBY CLASSIC CAR CLUB



APRIL 1995 - APRIL 2010

*(Author – Peter Woodhall)*

The Club has completed 15 years of existence and you may wonder why I have put this synopsis together, my answer is: that without records you cannot have history. On the 20<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> anniversaries the Club will still be in existence but I may not be! Don't get me wrong I certainly hope to be around but you have to be realistic, so, it is for this reason that I would like to pass on for the future what the past has been.

John Warner and Richard Connew, saw that there was a need for a Classic Car Club in our area and so WCCC came into being, they started the Club in April 1995, a committee was formed and Elaine Warner became Treasurer with an account opened on the 13 August 1995 with "£52 from various members".

I joined the Club in 1996 and volunteered for the committee, Joan joined shortly afterwards. From the outset The Club was successful until 2001 - 2002 when it stagnated somewhat with the only too familiar situation of a lack of volunteers to help run it. At a committee meeting on the 21st March 2002 a situation existed where matters had to change and decisions made otherwise the Club would possibly go out of existence. There was a discussion to decide as to how to run the Club the outcome was that Elaine would continue as Treasurer and that we would continue with informal 'chat' meetings on Club nights. I personally am not in favour of just 'chat' meetings when you have probably seen the fellow 'chatter' the weekend before and would in all probability see them the weekend after, especially during the summer months when meeting up for car runs and shows etc.

Prior to this meeting during 2000, I together with Joan had taken over much of the day to day running of the Club, so we took the decision to run the Club between us but and I would stress this, always mindful that with anything we did we were answerable to the Members. I would point out although Joan & I are 'it' we have never taken a major decision on the running of the Club without a consensus of opinion of all Members, or if urgent from as many as we can contact.

There is a Club constitution and whilst Joan & I are 'it' at the present time we do welcome and are grateful for any assistance we are given, many have already done so, a big thank you, also to all who support the Club at Club Nights and events.

## CLUB CHAIRMEN

Have been Richard Connew, John Warner, Graham Firth and Peter Woodhall. John & Elaine continued as members after 2000 but I felt that in recognition of their early input into the club that they should become Honorary Members.

## MAGAZINE / NEWSLETTER

From the outset the Club published a form of newsletter, originally showing the events at Club nights and dates of local shows. Commencing May 2003 a quarterly magazine was produced incorporating Club events, dates for local shows together with articles that we believed would be of interest with myself writing and securing articles and Joan typing and enabling the articles to fit, I am allowed to put the pages together and staple them!

This continued in A5 format until after 20 magazines ending with the Feb - Apr 2008 issue; it was changed back to a newsletter but bi-monthly. The reason was that changing to a newsletter it is easier to fit articles also saving a lot of time folding and stapling.

It would be nice to have a monthly newsletter but Joan & I would find it just too much to cope with. I do think that editors of monthly magazines / newsletters must at times tear their hair out trying to fill the space.

We hope the newsletter in its present form fulfils its purpose and that Members look forward to receiving it. We have been and always will be grateful for the many articles provided by Members.

I believe it essential to have a newsletter / magazine it enables members, particularly those who cannot attend a meeting to keep abreast of what the Club is doing.

At one time we placed an article each month in the Wetherby News with a summery of events. Elaine started this and Joan continued for a short while but found that it produced no feed back or new members so this was discontinued.

## YELLOW FOLDER / MORGAN'S DIARY

Putting events in the newsletter is fine but where do you draw the line, there are so many. In a year, from various sources, we receive details of up to 50 events, not only locally but nationally so I thought of the 'Yellow Folder' to be available at Club nights in which there are copies available for all who are interested, only highlighting those of some significance in the newsletter.

A number of years ago the 'Morgan's Rally Diary' was produced, it has details of all the events in the North, Scotland and a few elsewhere, for the last few years it has been produced by the York Rotary Vikings Club with all proceeds going to charity. We decided that it would be nice for all members to have a copy as part of their subscription. This we have done since January 2004

Both have worked well for us, helping to keep members up to date with events in the Classic scene.

## MEETING VENUES

Chequers Inn, Bilton-in-Ainsty	1995 - August 2003
Wetherby W M Club	September 2003 - August 2004
Pax Inn, Thorpe Arch	September 2004 - June 2009
Bridge Inn Hotel, Walshford	July 2009 – Present

It is not easy to find a venue that meets the ideal club needs, a room that will comfortably hold 50/60 people, most importantly be free, reasonable off street parking and for those that like to eat beforehand good food at reasonable cost. Not least owners/licensees that are obliging and appreciate the yearly trade we give them which we estimate conservatively to be over £5000 per year.

The original meeting place from 1995 was the Chequers Inn until 2003. During the latter part of 2002 and into 2003 after the then licensee left, the pub went downhill and our numbers attending were too big to be comfortably accommodated.

The decision was taken to move and for a year the meetings from September 2003 were held at the Wetherby Working Men's Club. The drawback was that we were being charged £25 per meeting, no way would the Secretary budge from this figure and then food became unavailable. We believed that we were not particularly welcome and there was a lack of cooperation. We moved the meeting to the Pax Inn.

From September 2004 we were at the Pax Inn, Thorpe Arch until June 2009. Initially the landlord was reasonable but unfortunately was said to have marital and drink problems, eventually he was evicted from the pub by the brewery. The next licensee was very obliging and appreciative of the trade we were giving him, the no smoking law and the river bridge closing for 5 months caused him financial problems and resulted in him almost running it single handed, he too left and a lady licensee took over, never having run a pub before. We found her very difficult to deal with and not cooperative, so we again looked for a new meeting venue.

Having looked at various venues with the criteria already mentioned in July 2009 and to date we have been at the Bridge Inn Hotel at Walshford. So far we have found them professional and very obliging. We do not have to pay for the meeting room and use any one of three, the reason being if a paying customer requires a specific room we are moved but all the rooms are very well appointed and laid out ready for us to use.

As many of you know the carvery is good and they discount the cost for us which helps a little towards the cost of the drinks as they are on the high side. The car park is large and this year 2010 for the 'Concourse' night we were able to use the overspill car park that can take up to 50 cars.

In summary the Bridge meets our criteria and we hope we can be there for the foreseeable future.

## CLUB SUBSCRIPTIONS

1995-1996	£4.00
1996 - 2001	£6.00
2001 - 2005	£8.00
2005 - 2009	£10.00
2009 - TO DATE	£12.00

## RAFFLE

Many clubs at meetings and events have a raffle to supplement subscriptions, in June 1997 a raffle was started at our Club nights, that first raffle raised the magnificent sum of 52p in profit. So far in 13 years the raffle has raised just over £3243 for Club funds. We are very grateful for the raffle prizes that are donated, which in addition to those purchased make good prizes. Having visited many clubs I can say that I don't believe any are better raffles than our own.

## CLUB CONCOURSE NIGHT

It's judged on a fair system whereby everybody has a vote for a 1/2/3/4 of their choice. For some unexplained reason I do not have a full record of the winners but here are the cars and owners known to have won.

- 2001 Fairthorpe Electron Minor - Richard Holden
- 2002 -
- 2003 Daimler Coupe - Alan Harris
- 2004 Rover Tourer - Bruce Grange
- 2005 Daimler Coupe - Alan Harris
- 2006 MG/TF - John Hurren
- 2007 Reliant Scimitar - Bill Sims
- 2008 Sunbeam Alpine - David Ezard
- 2009 Hillman Californian - Jeff Bell

There is a trophy for the winners to hold and a rosette are given to the first 4 cars. Additionally there is a trophy and rosette awarded to the best visitor's car.



## CLUB NIGHTS: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday every month

During the Club's early days the Concourse evening and the BBQ took place in different months. The AGM has always been held in April, for a number of years the Club nights are now established as:

January - Hosting our own Inter Club Quiz (started in 2004)

February - Party Night with a different theme each year.

May - Evening Treasure Hunt (or as we are supposed to call it Run with Clues!)

June - Concourse - Bring your vehicle night

July - BBQ (although now due to costs we are having to rethink this evening)

December - Christmas Dinner (with a free raffle for all)

In November 1997 & 1998 we had firework displays but to see over £100 of money go up in the air in about 15 minutes, although nice & good fun, did not seem very good value.

Similarly on the Club Nights Nov 1999 - 2002 we had Race nights, good fun but proved expensive.

For the last 3 years, deciding that February was a miserable time of the year and how could we brighten it up, we came up with the idea of a themed party, our first was in 2008 Beach Party, 2009 'Mad Hatters Tea Party', 2010 'Last of the Summer Wine'. All with appropriate supper to match. Nearly everyone who came joined in the fun and dressed for the occasion!

The following are other events / talks that have taken place in basically the order they took place.

Talk/film on F.I.V.A. Rally	Wine Tasting Tony & Pauline Knibb (x2)
Local Police Officer	Chips Away - car body repairs
Stove Enamelling	Yorkshire Air Ambulance
Prison Officer	Metal Detecting
Country & Western dancing	Peak District Railway
Advanced Driving	Humour of the Yellow lines
Call My Bluff (x 2)	Ascot at York - Tony Knibb
Objects in a bag	Andrew Greenwood - Event Organizer
Alpha Dot Security & Policeman	York Tourist Humour
French Polishing for Dashboards	Ecoflow Products & talk
Fireman & fire videos	TV Film Extras
Photographic Competition	All things Classic
Line Dancing	DVLA
Dice Car Drive (Beetle drive) (x 3)	Rolls Royce Club
Monte Carlo Rally talk & video	Local Cinemas & Radio
Grundy Mac Classic Car Dealer	Beijing to Paris - talk plus slides
Jowett Cars	Highways Agency / Advanced Driving
Dick Craven Motor Cycle Museum	Military Vehicle Trust
Mr & Mrs competition	United Nations Drug / people trafficking
Vehicle Gas Conversions	Club Panel discussion on the Classic
Baby Photographic Competition	"Heartbeat" the cars
"Wish upon a Star" Children's Charity	"From tree to tea" - Taylor's tea
Ukulele Evening	Jowett Cars - Experimental Dept

## OTHER EVENTS

The Club has had many Sunday runs to all points on the Yorkshire compass and several years ago started the midweek 'Golden Oldies run'.

We have also had a stand at many car shows. Had visits to open gardens in the summer, evening car meets at local hostelry's and the ladies did have their own night out. Also a couple of York Ghost Walks were enjoyed.

On 27<sup>th</sup> Aug. 98/ 20<sup>th</sup> Oct. 99/ 21<sup>st</sup> Jun. 2000/ 1<sup>st</sup> Oct. 03 we had ten pin bowling nights & fish and chips at York.

From 7<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> August 98 we had a Club trip to France enjoyable for most, not for me as I spent a week in hospital, but that's another story!

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I hope this summary of 15 years brings back memories to those who have been with the Club for many years and give an insight to the newer members of what the Club has achieved, numbers wise not being a large club the Club has achieved a lot. With your continued support I'm sure it will continue to thrive.

**Peter**



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If you recall, from available records I put together as comprehensively as possible a synopsis of the Clubs first 15 years. Recently in this the Clubs 16<sup>th</sup> year with many thanks to Gillian McDowall I received more information about the formation of the Club. So to put the record straight here is the update.

A letter by Richard Connew begins "Many thanks for turning up for the first meeting of the WCCC"

"The first meeting of the Wetherby Classic Car Club took place at the Windmill Pub, Linton, Wetherby on the 1<sup>st</sup> August at 8.15pm for a first meeting it was very well attended with over 20 people turning up in MG's, Triumph TR's, BMW's a 1930's Ford, 1950 Bentley, Karman Ghia, Lotus Sprint to name but a few. The evening went very well with everyone in agreement that we should make the Club permanent"

He continues with the setting up of the Club i.e. Committee, promoting the club and the next meeting date.

Gillian was at the first meeting with husband Hugh. Other Club members who are still with the Club and were either at the first meeting or joined shortly afterwards were Paul & Carol Burton, Steve Woodcock and Roy Walker.

The earliest known photograph of a club outing!!

