

# News Winter 2015



Home of the finest bespoke Automobiles

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<http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/royaleownersclub>

## Chairman's Chat Winter 2015

Well the summer is over and it already seems a long time ago we enjoyed weather that was conducive enough to driving my Sabre with the hood down if at all. It's been a strange year as although we have been very busy with the car we have not put down the miles we normally cover over the course of a year even though we took the car to France for our holiday with John and Wendy house hunting. We even went on the Derbyshire holiday (thank you Barrie and Jackie) and to the ladies weekend in Warwickshire, even so our millage is still significantly down on other years. I'm sure this must be down to two things. The first is we were on holiday while you had all that beautiful weather in the UK which disappeared the day we returned and the second the weather has not been as nice as my mind imagines it was possibly. Either way we failed to cover as much ground this year. I suppose it could also be down to the fact for a retired couple we have been extraordinarily busy doing goodness knows what I'm sure.

Changing the subject completely I have had three new batteries fitted to my car in four years all due the batteries failing but with no explanation as to why. Every time the car fails to turn over I call the RAC and they change it for a new one under guarantee. At the same time they do a power drain test, alternator test etc. but nothing seems to be giving any clues other than I have been given duff batteries but that just seem to much of a coincidence to be the right answer. So if any of you have experienced a similar issue then please let me know and maybe I can save the RAC replacing any more.

There is a small article later through the pages of this magazine of our annual trip to France which apart from the heat which was exhausting we enjoyed very much but with some reservations that you can read up later.

Car shows are by and large falling by the wayside for owners of Kit-Cars it would seem and at this moment in time the only one specifically for us is Stoneleigh so I encourage you to support this event or even that will be gone. On the upside there are lots of small shows you can enjoy these days and many are organised through Facebook pages and although I have been too busy to attend a single one there have been loads in the area that I could have attended. You may like to think about examining this route if you are finding it difficult to find events that might interest you.

Since the last magazine we have had the Ladies weekend which although I organised it, I do believe it was a big success and excellent value for money. But I suppose I should let others be the judge of that and you can read a few notes I jotted down of the trip through these pages as you progress through the magazine.

In the last magazine I showed how I dyed a pair of MX5 arm rests to a matching colour with my interior and was to give you an update in this issue. However, I have either been short of time or just plain lazy but at this moment they are sitting on the bench in my shed in exactly the same place they were when I jotted down the last notes. As my garage is pretty small I doubt much progress is going to happen on this front now until the weather temperature picks up in the spring now.



## Chairman's Chat winter 2015

The last of the bonnet badges have now been sold so I'm afraid that will be the end of those unless somebody else comes up with a new idea to produce them and our thanks on behalf of the club to John Morris for the magnificent job he did of producing the centres for us. I believe they really lift the car's face to another level and all those of you that purchased one should be very grateful to John for all his efforts.



The boot badges also sold very well and as I write I believe everyone that ordered one in the first instance has now received his as I sent them recorded delivery. We do have I believe two left so if you were thinking of purchasing one I wouldn't leave it too long as once again when their gone their gone, there will not be another batch so you will be joining an exclusive club.

Foolishly I keep thinking that these items are going to be easy to produce on 3D printers but every time I enquire I'm asked for a Mac programme to produce them with, even though I went into Asda recently and found a booth that if you stood in it a laser or something similar would trace your contour, even a family all at once and produce I miniature copy of you or of your family. Surely it wont be long before any part can be reproduced by a scanning device and the correct materials or am I being over optimistic.



The time may well be close I may have to relinquish the Chairmanship and Editor of your magazine. Wendy and I after much sole searching have finally made a leap into a property in France that is going to take up a lot of our time so I don't know if I will be able to do all the things for the club I currently undertake. The magazine especially take a lot of time and effort to put together and do try to give you the best product I can given that the contribution by you the members can be a bit challenging at times. This is not a statement of resignation, just a hint at the fact that with a house to renovate and in a foreign country it may well be difficult to keep going with everything I try to fit in. So, if there are any budding magazine editors out there that think they might like to have a go, this might well be the time give it a go. I would do my best to help you out.

Nothing much more to say than for Wendy and I to wish you all a pleasant winter that's not too cold. A happy Christmas and a Happy New Year and hope you all get all you wish for in 2016 or at the very least what you deserve.



## Funny Corner

An elderly man was stopped by the police around 2 a.m. and was asked where he was going at that time of night

"I'm going to a lecture about the dangers of alcohol abuse and the effects it has on the human body, as well as smoking and staying out late."

The officer then asked, "Really? Who's giving that lecture at this time of night?"

The man replied, "That would be my wife."

As well as the Royale Owners club, one of the other organisations I belong to is the Goodwood Road Racing Club and as well as the Festival of Speed and the Revival, Lord March invites just 60 members to display their cars in front of Goodwood house. This year I had the honour to be invited to show my Royale Sabre (Tallulah). The invitation is for the driver and his companion, and as my wife is currently unable to get into the car at the moment due to knee problems, I got my daughter Melissa to come with me. Luckily Sunday 2nd July was a warm sunny day, so after a pleasant drive down through the Sussex countryside we arrived at Goodwood House and were parked between a Ferrari and a Maserati.

The invitation includes coffee and snacks on arrival and a sumptuous lunch in the dining room of Goodwood House, followed by a tour of the house itself. Despite being in the company of several million pounds worth of cars, Tallulah was greatly admired, with several people expressing an interest in how they might obtain a Sabre.

Anyone in the club can be proud to be the owner of such a beautiful car, my only regret is that having been, I will no longer be eligible for the event.

Stan Verrall.



**Stan Verrall with his daughter Melissa**

Dear Peter,

In response to your email, and at the risk of being accused of self obsession, I offer you an image of me and the only Royale Sabre at The Goodwood Revival last week. Please don't tell Lord March, but the age limit in The Classic Car Park is 1966, but the blokes on the gate cannot tell the difference and just waved me through, and this is the second time we have been in the Sabre.

Incidentally, I counted 15 Spitfires there, and I did not realise that many existed. They were there for the 75th anniversary of The Battle of Britain on the following Tuesday.

The Revival is a brilliant event, we had a great time and this was our fourth visit. Can I suggest that for members who have not been there, consider it for next year. We will be going and it would be great to have some more Sabres there. You are expected to dress in 40s, 50s, and 60s style. It is great fun, and everyone is very well behaved. Even the mechanics who service those cars being raced have to wear a collar and tie.

It goes on for three days, and the Friday is the cheapest day. Although it is £50 entrance fee on that day, it is exceptional, and well worth it.

People bring cars from all over the world, and they are stunning. There is usually vintage aircraft, but this year it was all World War 2 aircraft, with aerial displays. It was possible to go up in a Spitfire at £2,500 a go !!!



Two weeks before we went, the clutch packed up. Anyway it was beyond me to do the work because I am rebuilding a Riley Roadster at present, and a friend in the next village who is a mechanic with a garage, replaced it. He loves the Sabre and says it is the best hand built car he has seen, but he says it has not been put together with replacement in mind. Apparently there was a lot of bad language removing the clutch because he could only make a quarter turn on the spanner. The V8 Rover engine, gear box, and clutch are packed in. Apparently, the clutch cost £134 and he charged me £450 total; however I gave him some more money because I know how long it took him, and he worked over the Bank Holiday weekend to do it for me because we wanted to go away in it, and I want to keep his friendship.

The pressure plate on the clutch had disintegrated and the clutch itself was ok. The new clutch has now bedded in and once more it is a joy to drive.

A couple of months ago I was very poorly with an infection resulting from my kidney problem last year that laid me low for four weeks, and I was on the verge of getting rid of the Sabre and my two Riley's . After driving to Goodwood I now realise it was temporary insanity.

Consider me cured !!!

As Mr Toad said in The Wind in the Willows, "What ho for the open road" .

Poop poop,  
Tony.

PS notice the similarity in style between the Sabre and the Riley in background of the photograph. I took the a Sabre to a Riley bash recently, and I expected the purists to be a bit sniffy about about it. Far from it, they were all over it, and the general consensus was that had the Riley Mark continued, it would have developed into something very similar to the Sabre. They were also very impressed with the beautiful curvature of the body styling and how well it was put together. Praise indeed.

### **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

No 162 - John Lewis hails from Wales and is seeking to buy a Drophead

No 161 - Prof Claus Dieter Wielowski - Hails from Solingen in Germany and owns a blue Drophead

No 160 - Mr Livio Olivotto - Lives in the Treviso area in Italy - Livio is seeking a good Sabre Cabriolet - He runs a Classic Car business in Italy

No 159 - Mr and Mrs Howard Johnson

They are lucky folks who live in Laurencekirk, Aberdeenshire - Recently purchased a lovely silver Sabre from another club member

No 158 - Mr Mark Dodson

Hails from Levenshulme – Mark is an engineer and currently has a Sabre in build

No 157 - Mr Robert Bird - Lives in Droitwich - He has a Drophead on the road

No 156 - Mr Steve Tickner

Steve lives in Studham in Beds.

No 155 - Mr and Mrs Gareth and Rosemarie Davies are from Badsey in Worcs – they are running a Sabre

No 154 - Mr Paul Caine

Lives in Dalton in Furness - Sports a blue Drophead

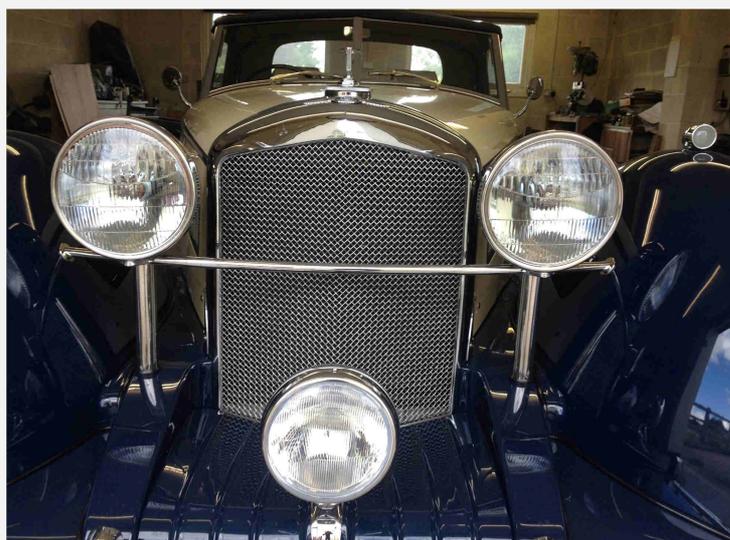
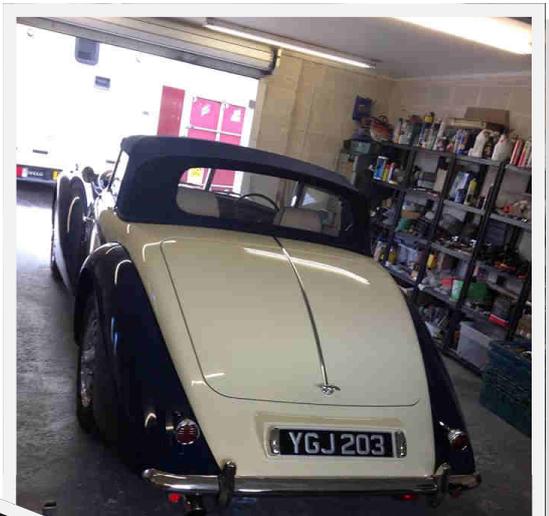


On the 26th August I paid a visit to John Barlow's Workshop with an old hood donated by Jim Waites and a hood cover donated by myself. John now has his own hood trimming service and he offered to give us prices on replacement hoods if I could find donated ones that templates could be taken from. I have not heard back from him as yet but some of our cars are coming up for 20 years old now and many will need the hood replaced if not now then at sometime in the future. John still runs a very successful business in the manufacture of wedding cars and other interesting vehicles. However, what a treat I got when



he offered to show me his latest creation. You will remember the Maroon and silver version of this vehicle featured in the magazine a short while ago and this is an advanced version of that car. Now I didn't see the other car but this fair takes your breath away. The quality of every aspect is superb and if you are prepared to hand over £100,000.00 it could be yours. No me neither but it is a beauty and will only be made as a turn key car. John has also offered to allow a visit for up to 10 cars next year if anyone is interested. This is a very generous offer as it is likely to impose on the manufacturing process while we are there and the offer is not likely to

be repeated. On that note, if you are interested in visiting the man and his machines, the brains behind the Royale marque then please email me and I will put together a list and see if we can't come up with a weekend that suits all during next summer possibly. Please email me at the usual address.



## Sabre wanted

Good Evening, I'm not a Royale Owners Club member yet, I have been only for one year, but I'd like to buy a Royale Sabre, and I never have seen one for sale in the market, if you can help to me, I'd be happy to be a member in the next future.

Thank you  
LIVIO OLIVOTTO  
VIALE DEGLI EROI 7  
31040 NERVESA DELLA BATTAGLIA  
TREVISO - ITALY  
Tel.: 0039 339 8959948



[livioolivotto@virgilio.it](mailto:livioolivotto@virgilio.it)

## If your thinking of renting a car

**Changes affecting all vehicle hire bookers latest updates  
As of Friday 10th July 2015 the "Access" or "Check Code" is now valid for 21 days! How to get your access code.**

1. Go online to the DVLA web site and follow the prompts. You will need your Driving Licence number handy, your National Insurance Number and the Post Code your licence is registered to get the your CHECK CODE. Which will be valid for 21 days to allow the rental company to check your licence details for any penalty points or disqualifications you may have and what type of vehicles you are entitled to drive.
2. 2. Make a note of your CHECK CODE and take this along with your photo-card to collect your car.
3. 3. It may be wise to print out the pdf copy of the details on the page and take this with you also.
4. 4. if in doubt, phone your supplier (number should be on your hire voucher) and check exactly what they will need on collection.

**Hope this is helpful, Ed.**



Derbyshire Tram Museum

## Royale Drophead for Sale



ROYALE 5 SEATER DROPHEAD FOR SALE £27,000 Burgundy over Cream  
4.2 Jaguar Engine, 19,000 miles with history and still drives like new.  
Originally ordered by the president of an international company to his own specification  
at a cost of £42,000.  
Car has wire wheels, a factory made chrome radiator shell that has never been used and  
build sheets.  
In recent years the car been used for weddings, car shows and has always been main-  
tained to the highest standard.  
Please telephone Philip Craven 07871 552 551 or [philip@philipcraven.com](mailto:philip@philipcraven.com) for further in-  
formation

Merry Christmas to all our members



## Two Royale Dropheads for Sale



### **Burgundy and Cream Royale Drophead Coup Convertible description:**

Burgundy and cream, steel chassis with fibreglass body, underside waxoiled, Cream leather seats, red carpet, 6 good tyres, Electric windows, Radio, All trim in high quality chrome all original Royale in VGC

Factory built all original Royale parts – Very rare car one of 60

|      |          |    |         |     |       |      |           |
|------|----------|----|---------|-----|-------|------|-----------|
| XJ6  | straight | 6  | –       | 4.2 | litre | –    | Automatic |
| Used | as       | a  | wedding | car | since | 1997 |           |
| MOT  |          | to |         | May |       | 2016 |           |

Serviced by Jaguar Specialist

Garaged since 1997

Price £25,000.00 OVNO – Lee Ashworth

07762511894 – [l.ashworth2@btinternet.com](mailto:l.ashworth2@btinternet.com)



### **Old English Royale Drophead Coup Convertible description:**

All chrome trim high quality and original Royale parts – Steel chassis – All underside wax oiled

Used as a wedding car for 20 years or more - 2 owners in 20 years - Very rare car one of 60

Electric windows, Radio, 6 tyres in good condition, new black hood fitted 2 years ago, recent full exhaust system

Serviced by a Jaguar Specialist for 20 years

MOT until May 2016, Taxed

Car garaged since built

Price £24,000.00 OVNO – Lee Ashworth 07762511894

[l.ashworth2@btinternet.com](mailto:l.ashworth2@btinternet.com)



**Both cars can be viewed on**

[www.hiresociety-weddingcars.co.uk](http://www.hiresociety-weddingcars.co.uk)

## Granada Fuel Tanks—Simon Carrington

### EBay fuel tanks.

I filled my Sabre with Petrol in February just before putting it back in the garage, returned to the garage an hour later to get something from the car and the garage floor was covered with petrol.

Leaving all alone for a month, after returning from our holidays I went into the garage and switched the ignition on, whereupon the fuel gauge still showed full. I assumed there was a leak on the top of the tank, resolved to change it and used it until August only half filling it when necessary.



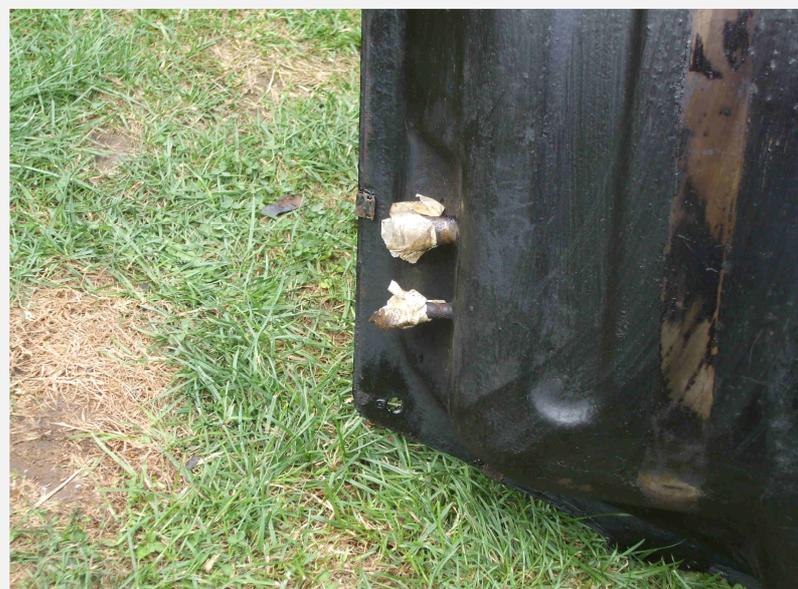
I ordered a new tank in May from a company advertising on EBay and was delighted when my brand new tank arrived just a few days later from Germany. I had checked the compatibility with their list, though at the time I was blissfully unaware (ignorant) of the fact that there are two types of fuel pump and sender unit used on Granada's.

So I duly painted my new tank with 3 coats of ruberoid paint. Your ahead of me now and your right, I got the wrong type. In my defence it's 19 years since I put my Sabre together and the suppliers list did state that the tank would fit an 89 2.4i Granada Ghia.

I contacted the supplier who asked for my chassis number etc. which I provided, they replied saying they'd never heard of a Granada with an external fuel pump and did I want to return the tank. I told them that I'd painted it so would hopefully sell it on, but could they please let me know if they could supply the alternative version.

I had a reply in German that Ando Baker translated for me which basically said that they would be emailing again in a couple of days.

I've heard nothing now for almost a month so I presume that the answer is no they don't. I have taken a photo of the two tanks together, but the differences for future reference are that the external pump type (like mine) has 2 pipes a 10 and a 15mm coming out near the bottom passenger side of the tank and the fuel gauge cap is considerably smaller.



## Auto Jumble

**Do you have something you wish to move on, you can place it here for free and maybe do another member a good turn.**

### For Sale

Brand new Granada fuel tank (submersible pump type) fitted with a new filler neck sealing ring and painted with 3 coats underseal.

£100 o.n.o will arrange free delivery for Royale Owners Club members please call 07866808103 or email carrington357@talktalk



### For Sale

Having sold my sabre I have a complete carpet set that I no longer require.

It is royal blue wool and leather bound and includes the boot carpet.

There are also a few unbound offcuts that would be useful if starting a complete re-trim, looking for £110 which is less than half original price back in "Vintage" days, maybe someone still in build stage could make use of it

David Wilks

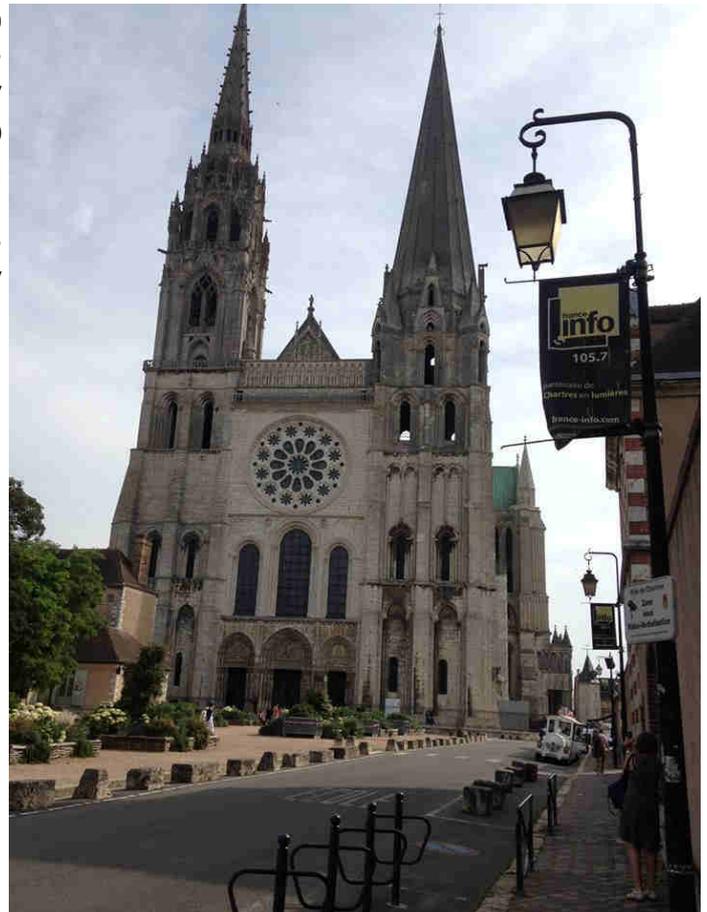
[dwilksnoe@hotmail.com](mailto:dwilksnoe@hotmail.com)



We had an overwhelming response to the production of replacement boot badges so we ordered a few over for any stragglers. These are Stainless Steel but with no fixings so you will need to come up with your own method. To those of you that have already fitted your badge maybe you would share your method with the members and they can chose their perceived best option. £20.25 including p&p.

## Holiday France 2015

Today is the 23rd June and Wendy and I are preparing for our annual holiday the following day. It will have something of a twist this year as we intend to include searching for a second home in the Vienne region at the same time. Once again John and Wendy Nasarris will be accompanying us so we are looking for good weather and traffic free roads. However, before our holiday had even started we hit a minor snag. We received an Email that morning telling us that our first night stopover we had pre booked in France was no longer available due to the owner needing to go into hospital for a couple of days, but she would be OK on our return journey. I didn't need this news now as I still had to go into town and buy Euros. I had left it to the last minute due to the Greek crisis improving the rate on a daily basis. Nothing for it though I would have to spend time re visiting the area on the internet and see what I could come up with. Eventually the answer was nothing and we would have to extend the day and stay in the Novatel hotel in Chartres. Not the worst place to stay I'm sure but not a little friendly B&B either. That done it was off to the post office to buy our Euros and even than was a trial. At the counter I asked for the best rate and was advised if I spent £2000.00 I could have an exchange rate of Euro 1.36 which at that time was very good though it improved further later. Insert your card the nice lady said and I'll count out your money. Being the type of guy that always does as he is told I inserted my card, punched in the PIN and hey presto the Post Office didn't have the money to give me. I'm so sorry the kind lady said can you come back tomorrow and pick it up. No, I replied I will be on my way to Dover to catch a ferry I lied and need it today, baring in mind you have taken my money from my bank. After a short time leaving me on my own at the desk she said it will be with office at 15.00 and can I come then. Thank you I replied, will you be on the foreign exchange desk when I return to sort it out. No. I finish at 13.00 but I'll explain the situation to the manager and it will all be fine. Yes I said, but I have no receipt for the money you have taken or proof you have not given me my Euros. Sir, it will be fine don't worry we will ring you and let you know when the money is to hand. So I ended up leaving with £2,000 taken form my account and no Euros in exchange. Was I worried, well a little I'll admit especially as by 16.00 I had heard nothing and thought I'd better go back and find out what's happening. At the exchange desk there is now another young lady counting money. I explain my situation and to my relief she replied that she was just counting out the money now and was about to ring me. So we hadn't left home yet and all was not going to plan, lets hope the rest of the holiday does not continue in like vein.



## Holiday France 2015

Our journey will start by meeting up at the Premier Inn at Dover tomorrow and spend the night ready for an early ferry the following morning the 25th June.

Our drive to the Dover was uneventful bearing in mind the previous day the port of Calais was closed and the roads to Dover were being used as a car park for lorries. This all due to the dispute over the take over of My Ferry Link (part of Eurotunnel I believe) by DFDS and the loss of many jobs. We all new this was coming but the French being French seem to strike at the drop of a hat, and although nobody as a rule likes to be made redundant, from what I read and see, it is far less painful there than in the UK with very generous unemployment benefits. That aside we were very fortunate as our journey was without incident or almost. Car packed, house locked, off we set. However, it soon became obvious I was going to roast in the clothes I was wearing and would need to remove my jumper at the first opportunity. At this point I noticed a huge Mercedes driving so close to the back of me I thought you ignorant pig is it really necessary to drive so close as you will not be able to pass on these narrow line we were using. Soon after we came across a layby and I decided to stop to remove my jumper and at the same time let the loony by. But no, he pulled in behind me and began to get out of his car. Now what? I thought we haven't gone 5 miles and we already have a problem. Is something wrong I enquire, not at all says the Mercedes driver, I am just intrigued to know what make and model your car is and was trying to read the name on the boot. So after a brief explanation we were once again on our way Dover bound.

We arrived at the hotel to be met By John and Wendy who had arrived first and were already enjoying the sun on the terrace glass in hand. We registered, found our room and joined them for a glass or two ourselves as we would not be driving now until the following day.

We had dinner in a nice Italian restaurant we usually frequent when we make these trips and retired for the night praying the ferries would be running smoothly the next morning.

I bright start to the day with sunshine and no hint of trouble. We repacked our cars and headed for the terminal only a few hundred yards from the hotel. Just like previous trips we left time to be shunted into the customs shed and just like previous trips that's exactly what happened. I know this is a security thing but we do the crossing so often you have to wonder if they only want to look at the car, certainly you can hide a lot more contraband in a camper van than a Sabre but perhaps we should be grateful rather than complain as they are only trying to keep us safe. But, it could cost you a lot of money if not too careful as we had booked the saver crossing both ways and you have to catch the ferry you are booked on or lose the money and pay again. So you should remember



## Holiday France 2015

to always leave time for this eventuality, especially as we had only 10 minutes to spare by the time we had exited the customs shed. Customs negotiated, booked in, loaded on to the ferry and a smooth sea allowed us to enjoy the morning sun on a glass blue channel crossing to Calais.

At Calais we took the Motorway to begin with just to escape the hurly burly of the local roads and oh what a sight we saw. Hundreds, if not thousands of lorries queued up along the motorway awaiting their turn to use the tunnel.

This was now going to be a much longer day than we initially planned as it was an additional two hours on to Chartres than our original planned stop. With little choice we reached our hotel at 17.00 and was very pleased to get out of the car and relax. The signs en-route over the motorway indicated the temperature was 36c and I was sticky from top to toe and ready for a shower and a rub down with an oily rag. Toiletries dealt with, a short relax in the bar with a beer, dinner and a good nights sleep before setting off for our first of four nights in the town of Chaillac.

As we were in Chartres and had pushed on the previous day she was not going to miss the opportunity of having a quick gander around town before we set off proper.

It was well worth the visit, it has a beautiful Cathedral and a medieval centre that you should not miss if you are ever in the locality. In fact the cathedral is spectacular and an absolute must. What was to be a quick nip in and out of town soon faded and by the time we had seen the best bits it was now going to be very hot in the car. We eventually got away at 12.00 and with a 5 our drive all in the now blazing sun all you needed to wear was a thin shirt and this was soon more like a sweaty sock, it was so hot we were not enjoying this at all.

Apart from the heat, the drive was easy and we were relieved to be well received at our Chambre Dote that we would be staying at for the next few days. The greeting was very welcoming and after a drink, a shower and a walk to the local bar followed by and excellent dinner prepared for us by Mathew at our resting place and a return to the local bar before bed.

The following day we had a rest from the cars in the morning and just wandered around the local area to see what was what. We had lunch in one of the local restaurants and generally lazed our way through the day. In the afternoon we decided to roam further afield and ended up being caught up in a local bike race which we found impossible to escape from. As a result we eventually crossed the finishing line to cheers and applause so at least the cars were appreciated.



Relaxing by the river – Montmorillon

## Holiday France 2015

It's now Monday 29th and today we are meeting the estate agents who will be showing us four properties we had booked to see from the UK or so we thought. On meeting up with the agents it was soon discovered that of the properties we had come to see, our two most likely candidates were no longer on offer. Very disappointing but what can you do. We agreed to look at the other two but these fell well short of our expectations and with nothing else on offer we decided we would pass and wait to see what could be secured at our next port of call and just enjoy the area while we were there.

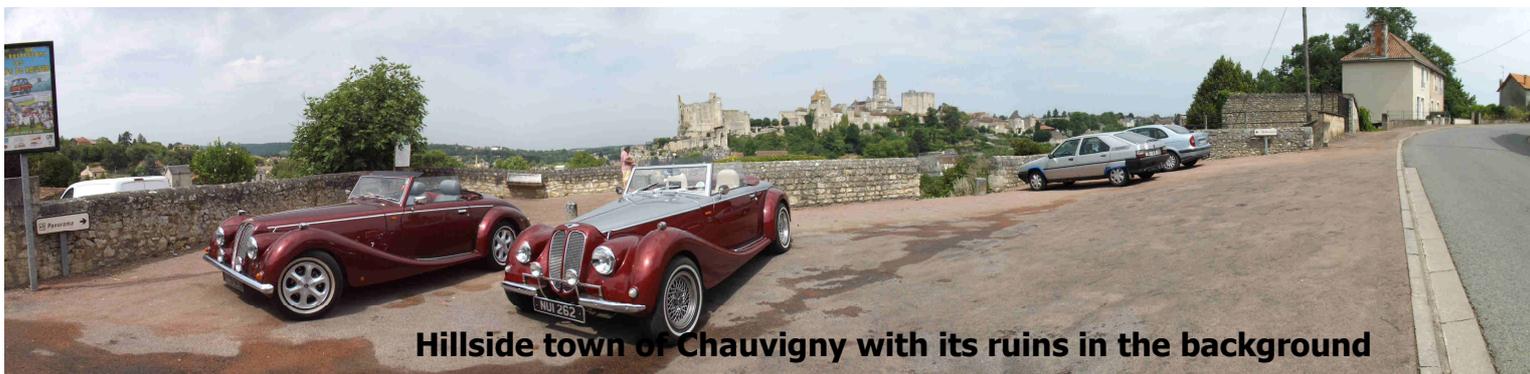
The Vienne is a beautiful part of France and mostly ignored by tourists so it is very peaceful and lacking in traffic jams or rush hours. It is filled with scenery of every type, ruined castles and towns and villages with wide rivers running through them. The problem for the local population is that there is no industry, historically it has been farming and agriculture and now that most of the work has been automated, people are moving to the cities for work. Many houses of all sizes lie empty with no buyers other than holiday homes and supply in general outstrips demand resulting in very cheap houses on offer, though most have been neglected for years and need a lot of time and money spent on them to bring them into the 21st century.

A warning to us from many sources was 'you cant make money on property in France'. I suspect this is not true in the cities but out in the sticks I think caution is required.

Though I do not have the full details, Wendy and I originally went down in April to view a house that overlooked the river in the village of La Trimouille. It was originally listed for 115,000 euros but due to the lack of a sale it was now advertised at 65,000 euros and looked a bargain. I phoned the agent from England and said if it could be bought for 50,000 euros we would come out and see it to which the owner agreed. To cut a long story short we did not like it enough in the flesh to proceed but I understand it has since been sold for 35,000 euros. Two thirds cheaper than the original asking price. I think this demonstrates the Buyer beware adage quite nicely.



Square at Chaillac



Hillside town of Chauvigny with its ruins in the background

## Holiday France 2015

That was the morning over and with not much else to do that day we were told the largest outdoor market was held every Monday locally. Now what can you do for a girl more than take her shopping, and at an outdoor market at that. Even today I can't remember where it was or how we got there. That's because the direction we received were all in French and as my Wendy was not with me at the time of the directions being given I only had an outline of understanding as to where it was. However, as luck would have it, at some point I decided it could be no further and took a right turn off the main road and almost fell over it. We reached a point where the main road was closed to traffic and were directed into a field to park with the market continuing along the road we travelled along. It was humungous. Halfway round I was so hot and tired myself and John sat and had a pet-it beer and a hot dog for lunch with no idea where the girls were. However, it did not take them too long to find us due to the fact that they were no going to miss any part of the market and at some stage they should pass us. I think we bought a few odds and sods but nothing of consequence that I recall. Again the heat was building and with all these people around it was soon time to return to our lodgings and have a couple of cool beers before dinner and retirement. Tomorrow we move to La Trimouille.

It's only 10am and the heat is already upon us and although we had only a short drive today to our new lodgings they would not be ready for us until mid afternoon so we decided to pay a visit to the Chateau of Guillaume where Alienor of Aquitaine came from, queen of England, who may herself have been born there. As many of you will know France tends to shut most of the day, especially in the stick but this site was closed until 16.00 so although we managed a glimpse from the outside our attempt to actually pay it a proper visit failed as we could not hang around that long. To be fair, there was no where to hang around, not even a café in the village. So we took some photo's and motored on to our destination at La Trimouille the Le Logis B&B. This is the poshest B&B Wendy and I have ever stayed and is run as a life style as well as a business by Alexandria who makes you very welcome. Nothing is too much for here guests.



Riverside—La Trimouille



Chateau Guillaume

## Holiday France 2015

The thing about the Le Logis in La Trimouille is the Lounge is always cool, and now that the temperature was hitting 40c it was very welcome. In addition to looking at houses we had a few trips prepared but to be honest we did not do half what we intended and we spent much of the time chilling in the shade trying to keep cool. This does not mean we did nothing but our trips out were reduced in distance and time so not to put too much pressure on ourselves. Could ask if it's so hot why are we looking in this area for a house. The short answer is that it is beautiful, the houses are inexpensive and the weather is not always like this.

The Logis has no carpark of it's own and although there is public parking in the village square outside the town hall only a few yards away we were not happy to leave them in a public space for four days and nights. As a special concession to us and our cars, Alexandria had her friend allow us to leave our cars behind her electric gates allowing us to come and go as we pleased as we were also provide with a fob to operate the gates for the period of our stay. Our board was B&B only so evening were a mixture of buying salads and preparing

it in the hotel kitchen which was perfectly acceptable and meals out in Montmorillon beside the river. This is another beautiful town only a 20 minute drive away with a selection of shops and supermarket with a greater selection than the small store in La Trim.

Once settled we contacted the local estate agent and asked to see what she had to offer.

But alas, although she had a selection for us to view but none took our eye and so our search continues.



Hotel Le Logis and a rest



Secure behind the gates at Ellen's beautiful house

## Holiday France 2015

Although our house hunting was over for the time being at least, our holiday was not as we still had a couple of days in La Trim before moving on to Moncontour and the lovely Jane, who always gives us a good reception.

The heat is still bonkers and the courtyard of the hotel was registering 47.2 c. Now I don't know about you but today we were going nowhere. As luck would have it Wimbledon was

on telly and so we spent most part of the day watching tennis from the relative cool of the hotel lounge and the sports bar down the street supping a cool beer.

Next day the heat continued but you can't go all that way and not move your butt. Today we are off on a circular route to visit some of the more interesting sites of the area. We will visit, Journet, Montmorillon, Saint-Savin, Chauvigny, Saint-Pierre-deMaille among others along the way including the largest town of Le Blanc. Was this a mistake, well at the furthest point we had to find the shade of



a village green and have our lunch that we had the foresight to take with us. However, at 42c it was impossible to keep cool, even in the shade.

As you arrive at Chauvigny there is a very handy parking spot where if space is available you can take pictures across the valley with the castle ruins in the background, very spectacular. Back in the car

we made for the medieval town's car park which surprisingly is free. Time for a cold drink in a local café or bar was the order of the day. We found a beautiful spot not set for lunch and waited to be served. What can I get you said the officious waiter. We ordered our drinks, and what will you be having to eat he enquired. Just drinks thank you we replied. At this point he indicated that if we were not eating we would need to sit on a bench in full sun. I told he could put his café and his drinks where the sun never shines and we walked off to find another more amenable place to spend our euros. Not that he gave a whatsit.





## Holiday France 2015

It's our last night in La Trimouille and we decide to go out for a nice dinner in a nice restaurant. The hotel de Paris in Montmorillon is recommended so after a nice shower and some clean clothes we set off. Well as this is France you can never be sure that anything can be open and we managed to choose the night it was closed. Not o worry though, the restaurant beside the river, just over the bridge will be open we are assured, thankfully it was. Now my Wendy and I have been here before and know a little of its quirks. One is that although there are quite a few English tourists and home owners in the area they give nothing away on the menu, so if you speak or read no French it would be a bit off putting. My Wendy is almost fluent in this foreign lingo but even she had some difficulty with fare on offer and the waitresses were little help. We had this trouble before so asked to speak to the Chef who also appears to be the owner for a few translations. This was not a problem as we had the same issue on our previous visit, and he obligingly came out of the kitchen and answered our questions politely. After we were sorted I asked why he gave no thought to the possibility of enticing more English speaking customers into his lovely restaurant beside the river and it's beautiful views. His answer was surprising, he enjoyed practising his English he said. It may have been a bit forward of me and those of you who know me better than through these pages will not be surprised that I advised him that English people can be a little reticent and it might not be a bad idea to entice more of them in by helping them out at the door as he is potentially losing a lot of custom. Time will tell if he take my free advise on board. I doubt it as he seemed to think they would still come in and ask as we did, me, I don't think so but why take the chance, give them a clue if they have no knowledge of the language. For my part, if we do find a house to buy I am going to be needing to grasp a steep learning curve myself, we shall see. That aside we had a lovely last night meal and tomorrow we would be with Jane.



From La Trim to Moncontour it's only a two hour drive so we had a casual breakfast and used the wifi to check current situation at Calais. Would have been better not to have done. Ignorance is bliss they say and all the information we found indicated the situation was not good and a strike vote would take place on Tuesday and our ferry was on Friday. Not to worry we say it's four days away yet and anything could happen between now and then. So, with good heart we head for the delectable Jane and huge breakfasts and home cooked dinners like mother used to make.

It's Sunday and en-route we will visit a couple of Brocantes (junk market to you) these have been pointed out to us and we find them easily. Now I don't know about you but I like a good rummage through other people junk and although I usually find something to buy that I didn't know I needed until I see it, it usually gets filed away never



To be seen again. This was no exception and we bought a dozen cut glass knife rests and a pair of Art deco style wall lights for our daughter. Here is the example I previously mentioned. The knife rests fell out of the car on arriving home and one broke, even though the previous owners managed not to damage them for probably 40 years and my daughter didn't like the lamps enough to take them off my hands.

We did see a load of old pots at the brocant but of course they were too big to get into



the car but were for no money. Would you believe it, when we got to Janes later in the day she had them all lined up in the garden. These would be going to England to an Antique fair. You see, you buy junk and sell antiques. Clever if you can achieve it, but then Jane also dabbles in antiques. We whiled away a couple of days relaxing in the now not quite so hot sunshine and generally being totally lazy. But then I suppose that's what holidays are for.

It was time to say goodbye to Jane and her hospitality and move to our overnight stop before our final stopover near Calais. This was the lady that cancelled on us before we started out and we had heard nothing from her even though we had tried to ring. So we set off early just in case we needed to make other arrangements when we arrived. En-route she rang to say all was well but could we not arrive before 17.00 as she would not be there to receive us. Thanks for that I thought as we had made the early start we would now have hours to spare. As a result we made a detour into the town of Dreux, investigating the town and taking time out to sit in a nice sunny spot with a small beer. We also took the precaution of buying supplies in a supermarket just in case we got delayed at Calais and we needed some food and drink with us. The B&B was situated at Saint Gemme Moronval with huge secure gates. I ring on the bell resulted in a voice telling us to go up the hill at the back and use the rear entrance. Well it was almost a farm track down to the house and no wonder our host used a 4X4 to negotiate it. Our undercover resting place was rather unusual and very secure for the night and the rooms were beautiful. But our host was a bit money grabbing and charged us for everything she could

Janes B&B Moncontour

# French Holiday 2015



of as we left. I thought getting out of this rear entrance would be a bit difficult but it proved not to be a problem and the next morning we were on our way again, this time to the B&B of Jacqueline et Gilles Blondel at Hameau d'Upen d'aval. Don't ask me how you pronounce it but what a difference. If you ever need to find a B&B near Calais please go here. Wonderful people, wonderful meals, wonderful rooms and at a very reasonable price. I can't recommend it enough.

The only downside of our trip was in Rouen at some traffic lights. There we were minding our own business waiting at the lights when a pretty young woman decided she didn't like the shape of the rear of John's car and thought it might be improved if she rear ended it. This was not serious damage but the bumper is bent out of shape and the paintwork is cracked around the number plate light. After a lot of rubbish French and English we did manage to extract 150 Euros from her towards the repair. Needless to say there was no damage to her British made Mini.

It was now time for Calais and the queue for the ferry. We left with lots of time to spare even though it was less than an hour to the port. As we approached we were wondering where all the trouble was and when we would be snarled up in the traffic. Nearer and nearer we got, wire fencing on both sides of us now and still no queue. To our relief there was no queue and almost no traffic. The strike ballot had been held over for another day and the situation must have put a lot of travellers off. We were even offered an early ferry probably to get everyone on a boat as soon as possible just in case trouble resurfaced later in the day. I feel sorry for those that were effected but at the same time very relieved we got away with it in both directions. That was in July and it's mid September typing this and it's all gone quiet. Maybe the immigration crisis in Europe has put the whole thing in perspective though I suspect we haven't heard the last of it. This has been a great trip even though we did not find the house we were looking for. Great company, some wonderful scenery and a holiday to remember for years to come. As for the house. We will return to that I'm sure. Happy motoring. Ed.



Unusual car port



John's re-modled rear end

at the same time very relieved we got away



Our room at Hameau d'Upen



The house and grounds

**Auto Jumble - Do you have something you wish to move on, you can place it here for free and maybe do another member a good turn.**



Do you need your R's looked at. We now have a large stock of these sponsored by Amir Manzoori who donated them to the club to help improve our account balance. If you would like a strip of 5 please send £6.00 payable to the club to include postage and packing. Please do not ask for 1 as a refusal can often offend.



It appears that quite a few members would like us to organise another Tour for next year.

Included will be a 40 mile drive through some of Shropshire' prettiest villages and a tour of the Morgan Car Factory and Museum. We will be staying in a comfortable hotel for 3 nights in the region of £90.00/night B&B for two, and of course there will be adequate parking for our cars.

In order to procure the best deals we need to book early for this short holiday which will probably be towards the end of May/beginning of June to avoid half term.

If any members are interested please contact us as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Barrie and Jackie. Tel: 01332 792738

Email: [barrie.evans4@btinternet.com](mailto:barrie.evans4@btinternet.com)

Not sure what it is that Amir has been up to but this policeman was not impressed. Dealing in counterfeit badges are we son. Where did you get them from then, come on you might as well talk now it will save a lot of time down at the station.



**Royale Drophead for sale, part factory built, part built by the present owner and completed in 1996.**

MOT until 17th January 2016 and lovingly and meticulously maintained.

103,000 miles, but 60,000 on the present engine.

Four speed manual gearbox with overdrive.

Extras include Tracker, undersealed chassis, front and rear anti-roll bars, 3 rear seat belts, rear mud flaps, front and rear fog lights, rear parking sensors, stainless steel exhaust, central locking, tonneau cover, boot light, fuel pump isolator switches and bespoke enamelled hub-cap badges.

Bodywork needs a bit of TLC. Hub caps and wheel trims are not good and will be replaced prior to sale.

The car can be viewed in Cheshire (not far from junction 19 on M6 or junctions 7 and 8 on M56). £16,000.

Please contact Peter on 07818 043565 or by email at [peter@tozergs.com](mailto:peter@tozergs.com)



## Ladies Weekend 10th-11th October 2015

Saturday 10th October and the ladies weekend is upon us. The weather is set fair and we are even promised sunshine. We arranged to meet up with the other 12 couples at around 2.00 ish so it was necessary for us to leave around 12.00 as it's a couple of hours to the hotel for us. As I have had to fit a 2nd new battery this year I'm a little apprehensive as to whether the car is going to start as I pull up the garage door but all was fine and she fired up first time. So bags packed and Wendy ready we load up and begin our journey. Nothing untoward and we arrive at 2.15 with several other members already building a bill at the bar and it seemed rude not to join them. As the afternoon progressed the rest of the members arrived and it was soon time for a quick wash and brush up before dinner which was served at 8.00 o'clock which for some might be a little late. However, nobody seemed to mind and a very nice dinner it was with lots of noise and merriment, catching up with new friends and old alike. Whilst at dinner Stuart Shotbolt happened to mention we had to be nice to him as it was his birthday the following day and by chance Barrie Evans let slip that it was also Jackie's. This had to be marked with more than happy birthday sung.

After a late night and a hearty full English breakfast there was a choice of options as to what the ladies would like to do. With their day. Option one go see Kenilworth castle and gardens with Peter and Wendy, option two go for a country ride and end up at a pub for lunch where a small car show was being held led by Peter and Gloria Gurton and option three, do your own thing. To my surprise the majority went for a country drive and car show. To be fair the weather was glorious and a beautiful autumn drive in the country was very inviting for many.

Each group departed just after 10.00 and I assumed we would all be back by early afternoon. But none of it, our group (castle) spent 5 hours in the castle and grounds and then had a wander round the small town. Likewise the car tour group spent most of the day out enjoying the glorious weather. The gods were certainly on our side today and I think some even caught a bit of colour.



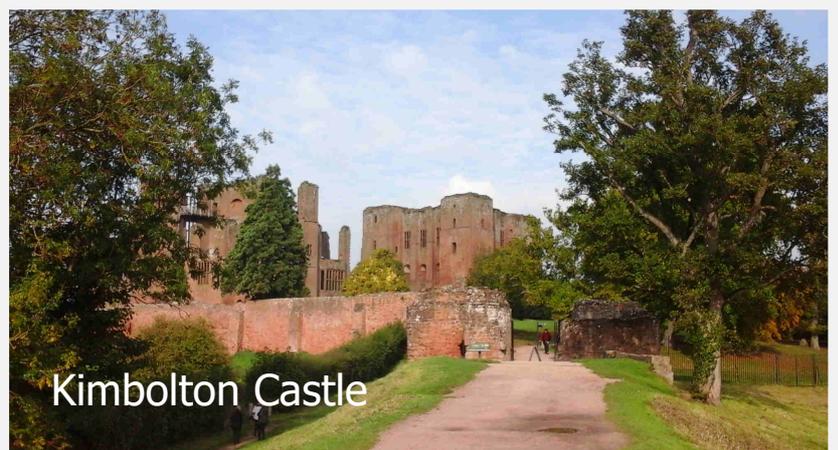
Awaiting the start of the car tour

## Ladies Weekend 10th—11th October 2015

Jackie Marsh and Stuart Shotbolt—Birthday couple



Before returning to our rooms another afternoon was spent socialising and generally have a pleasant chinwag with our like minded friends. Before retiring to bed the previous night I was able to persuade the restaurant manager to attempt to find a cake for the birthday couple and although it was Saturday night he did say he was sure he would be able to come up with something. What we didn't know was he also went out of his way to decorate the restaurant with bunting as well, top bloke me thinks. As a result when we all came down to dinner the place looked very festive. The ladies were given a table gift that consisted of a bright pink note book and pen which seemed to go down well and appeared much appreciated. After dinner and during coffee the staff brought out what was a basic birthday cake but the candles made it a bit special though Jackie seemed to think we had a few short. However, even though I think she was a little embarrassed by the whole thing I think secretly Jackie rather enjoyed the moment and as you can imagine, a lot more noise was made in celebration.



Kimbolton Castle

# Images Ladies from the weekend



# Images from the Ladies weekend





The picture on the left was taken by the Local tourist office of La Trimouille, France, for promotional use.

I don't know if they used it but it is on the leading page of the Le Logis B&B website and displaced a previous picture that included a Morgan. Bit of one up man ship if you like.

## Help Required

We/I have decided to resurrection of my Sabre, I do have an engine gearbox and loom but still in need "a few" other spare parts such as:

- 2 doors
- 2 wings
- bulkhead
- front part around the radiator
- front suspension including springs and shocks
- Dashboard
- instruments for new 2005 Ford engine 4 cyl electronic tacho and speedo meter, oil pressure and water temp etc and switches.
- steering wheel
- Radiator
- soft top.
- Wipers and wiper motor (mini)

Any help is highly appreciated, Cheers, René Kruyt.



[kruytdenhaag@hotmail.com](mailto:kruytdenhaag@hotmail.com)

May 4th 2016 ROC—AGM 12 noon  
Stoneleigh Kit Car Show,



## **SABRE OVERHEATING PROBLEM ..... a bit of a mystery.**

It all started with a fluctuating temperature gauge. When the 2.0 dohc fuel injected engine reached operating temperature and the engine was revved the needle fell from 200 deg F to 100 then went back again. This was most disconcerting so investigation was required. After checking for loose connections, bad earths behind the dash board all seemed ok so I plumped for a faulty sensor which is installed at the front right hand side of the engine. Access is tricky but removed it and took it to Europa Spares at Tutbury who supplied all my original gauges and their matching sensors in 1997. The gauges and sensors are now obsolete but after several weeks they eventually confirmed that the present Smiths sensor they sell was suitable although the body was much smaller than the original. This read high and the needle went way over 260 deg. I did notice that coolant was discharging from the radiator overflow pipe which it had never done before. I had fitted a new aluminium radiator and 20psi radiator cap in late 2014 and thoroughly flushed the system. Further investigation revealed that the electric fan was failing to operate so after carrying out further electrical checks realised that the fan sensor, which is entirely separate from the temperature gauge sensor, was failing to operate.

I bought a new Intermotor four terminal fan sensor (the one fitted in the thermostat housing on the front of the engine ....see photos) Two terminals control the fan and the other two connect to the engine management system. I refitted the ORIGINAL temperature gauge sensor, replenished the coolant and ran the car up to temperature.

Problems solved..... the gauge now reads correctly with a steady needle, no over-heating and no coolant loss.

Bit of a mystery ..... but maybe someone could throw some light on it?

**Barrie Evans**



# Club Shop

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