

Traction Owners Club Ltd

Traction Owners Club Limited
Registered Office: 58 St Augustine Road,
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Monthly Newsletter

Issue 12 September 2009

Incredible as it seems this is the 12th edition of e-FP - which was launched in August 2008. In the main the response from TOC Members has been extremely positive - with most editions generating considerable feedback and input.

Of the 550-ish Members of the Club nearly 400 (ie all those who have provided an email address) are sent a copy each month and only two have asked to be removed from the circulation list - one because he didn't think the newsletter was of any value or interest, the other because the email address provided belongs to his wife and he doesn't use the computer.

The e-FP logo has not been universally embraced - it is too garish for the conservative tastes of many Members - but the format and style of the newsletter has proved popular and most Members seems to enjoy the use of colour for the photographs which I am now able to include since ceasing to use the professional marketing organisation to handle distribution of the newsletter.

In fact, having now produced and distributed three complete newsletters direct from my own computer, I am about to cancel the contract with the mailing company (which allowed the original idea to come to fruition) and, by so doing, to save the TOC £180 per annum.

This will be my final newsletter from the Shuswap for this year as the six months that we are allowed to stay in Canada expire at the end of September. We will therefore be returning to the UK on the 30th and preparing the October edition in the UK. This may mean that your next newsletter may be a few days late as I have to organise MOTs and other mundane things so that we will have transport whilst in the UK.

Here, in BC, the hot, sunny days continue but the mornings and evenings now have an autumnal feel and once it gets dark (at a little after 8pm) there is now a decidedly chilly feel to the air. A lightning storm nearly two weeks ago started a wildfire about 8 kms from our house. The fire is now more than 3000 hectares in size (more than 7000 acres in English money) and the thick smoke from the burning forest stretches more than 50 kms in every direction. Our house is covered with a thick layer of ash and burnt pine needles - but despite this BC is a fantastic place to be and we plan to come back next Easter as soon as we are allowed.

Before turning to the TOC News I would just like to thank all of the Members who responded to my appeals for input - I now have enough material to ensure there will be a Club magazine until at least the end of the year but I still need more from you. So please take the time to sit down and write up that story you have buzzing around in your head and to send me your entry for the 2010 TOC calendar competition.

September/October edition of *Floating Power*

If you haven't already received your copy of the September/October edition of *Floating Power* it should be with you very shortly. I have already received three emails from Members (in the UK and Ireland) concerning the contents of the magazine so I know some copies have now arrived.

If you have already received your copy you will know that several readers responded to my requests for input regarding the Annual Rally and the 75-4-75 in Arras so I was able to maintain the increased size of the magazine.

Unfortunately, because of the vagaries of the software on my computer (which suddenly decided that input from Tony Latchford was SPAM) the normal Chairman's Chat column did not appear - for which I have apologised to Tony.

NEC - Classic Motor Show 2009

My understanding is that Mick Holmes is still looking for volunteers to man the Club stand on Friday 13th and Saturday 14th November so if you are able to help out please contact Mick and Moira on helpline@traction-owners.co.uk or John Reynolds on john.reynolds53@btinternet.com.

Citroën 90th Anniversary Celebrations

Ace Cafe, London

In *Floating Power* you will have read about the planned celebrations at the Ace Cafe on the North Circular Road on Saturday 3rd October. Tony Latchford has determined that any Members who do not have e-mail access may contact Jemma Chalcraft or Katy Reid at Citroën UK by telephone on 01753 843128 to confirm that they will be attending. Please pass this additional information to anybody you know who does not have internet access.

Bernie Shaw and Tony Latchford would like all Members contacting Citroën UK also to let them know that you have signed up for the event so that they can, if possible, co-ordinate the Club presence.

Sussex

Our TOC Club Shop manager, Barry Curtis, has been in touch to say that his local Citroën Dealer is having an open weekend to celebrate 90 years of Citroën and is taking Barry's car as the centre piece for the showroom display. Barry suggests other Members might wish to contact their local Citroën dealer to do the same.

Belgium

In Brussels the ABCC (Amicale van Belgische Citroën & Panhard Clubs) is partnering with Citroën Belux to stage an event on Sunday 4th October. During the morning of 4th October 90 Citroën cars of all ages will parade through the streets of Brussels and arrive at the headquarters of Citroën Belux at approximately 12.30. At the headquarters of Citroën Belux the 90 cars will be displayed in the Place de l'Yser/IJzerplein until 4pm, where Citroën Belux will be providing refreshments with which to toast their continuing success.

In addition to the 90 cars in the parade the Citroën Conservatoire will also be providing the splendid concept-car C-Métisse for the display.

Walter Callens, our man on the spot, says all TOC Members will be welcome. For further information on the parade for vehicles aged from 1919 - 1955 contact eric haenens at eric.d.haenens@belgacom.net or by phone on 0032/69 68 95 45 and for vehicles from 1956 - 2009 contact M Roelandt at roelandt.m@belgacom.net or by telephone on 0032/22 69 86 48.

“Wartime Weekend”

You will have read in ***Floating Power*** that Mick Popka is organising a “Wartime Weekend” in Yorkshire (16th to 18th October) to coincide with the North Yorkshire Moors Railways War Time Weekend.

Mick had originally proposed that TOC participants would book their accommodation in York and Whitby but has now discovered that there are other events in Whitby on the same weekend in October, consequently accommodation is very difficult to find.

His revised plan is that everyone interested in taking part in the event stays at The Grand Hotel in Scarborough on the nights of 16th and 17th October. Mick has provisionally secured 10 double rooms at the hotel at the price of £144 for the two nights including breakfast but needs to hear from interested parties by **11 SEPTEMBER LATEST** to confirm the booking.

Mick says there is other accommodation available in Scarborough at lower (and higher) prices should Members prefer to book directly themselves.

If you still haven't made up your mind pictures of the wartime weekend can be found at: <http://www.glendalehouse.co.uk/pages/wartime.htm> , <http://www.pickering1940s.co.uk/> , <http://www.yorkshiremoorsandcoast.com/thedms.aspx?dms=13&feature=1001&venue=1720037> and on Youtube: http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=pickering+wartime+weekend&search_type=&aq=f

Traction Avant 75th celebrations - Toledo, Spain

New TOC Member **Alberto Albero**, who is the owner of a 1950 Citroën Traction 11B and a 1935 7C (which he is in the process of restoring), writes to say that in Spain they are working to rebuild a Club that was founded in 1984 by long time TOC Member John Kiddell.

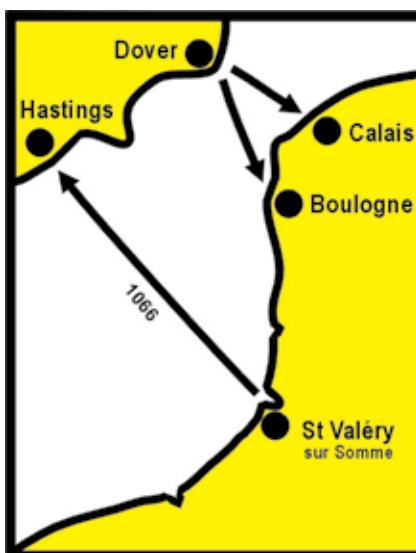
Alberto says that their club, Traccion Delantera Madrid, now has 35 members and that 9 cars with their crews travelled from Madrid to Arras in July to take part in the 75-4-75 event. Alberto says that he was also one of the members of the Club Traccion Delantera Madrid who entertained the group of us from the TOC who travelled through Avila in 2007 on our way to Gibraltar.

Alberto and some of his friends in the Club Traccion Delantera Madrid are thinking about visiting England next year to take part in some of the TOC events and in the meantime are planning their own event in Toledo, Spain in October 2009 to celebrate the 75th birthday of the Traction Avant with their colleagues who could not make the journey to Arras.

Alberto and his fellow members of the Club Traccion Delantera Madrid would like to invite all Members of the TOC to join them in Toledo from 23rd - 25th October to celebrate the 75th birthday of the Traction Spanish style. Anyone interested in this event should contact the Club de Aficionados al Tracción Delantera de Madrid at C/ Villa de Marín, 13 C.P. 28.029 Madrid, by phone at 659 995 099 / 647 715 180 or by email at 75aniversario@clubcitroen.es .

Tour to St-Valéry-sur-Somme 11-13 June 2010

A trip to St-Valéry-sur-Somme is being proposed by Robin Dyke around the weekend Friday 11th to Sunday 13th June 2010. Robin is hoping our friends from Traction Universelle will join us for some of the time and would like to thank François Henot, his co-conspirator (and new member of the TOC), for recommending a nice old restaurant for lunch.



St-Valéry is a pretty seaside town on the Somme estuary well provided with hotels, restaurants, bars, B&Bs, camping and an absolutely superb narrow gauge railway. There is plenty to do and things to see in the area, so you could add a day or so at either end of the weekend. St Valéry is a mere 50 miles from Boulogne or 72 miles from Calais. Alternative routes are Dunkerque (90 miles) or Le Havre (110 miles). The direct route from St Valéry to Hastings was discontinued over 900 years ago.

William the Conqueror, known locally as Guillaume Duc de Normandie, assembled his troops on the quayside in St Valéry at the end of July 1066. Unfavourable north winds delayed them for six weeks, but after parading the relics of St Valéry on the shoreline the winds shifted to the south. They



sailed on the 27th September, landing at Pevensey and marching to Hastings. The battle began in the morning of the 14th August. All day the Norman archers attacked the Saxon shield-wall. In the early evening the English line gave way and King Harold was slain. William was crowned in Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day 1066.

Further details from Robin Dyke

Other News

1936 Stainless Steel Ford

David Boyd has provided the following information and photographs of a 1936 Ford Tudor Sedan built for and owned by Allegheny Ludlum Steel. This is 1 of only 4 in existence and is the only one currently in running, road worthy condition. The car is in exceptional condition, with the interior and even the frame looking great. All 4 cars each had over 200,000 miles on them before Allegheny removed them from service.

These cars were built for Allegheny as promotional and marketing projects. The top salesmen each year were given the honour of being able to drive them for one year. The v-8 engine (max 85 hp) ran like a sewing machine and was surprisingly smooth and quiet. The car was insured for a recent trip to Louisville via covered trailer for 1.5 million dollars.

Apparently the dies were ruined by stamping the stainless car parts - making these the last of these cars ever produced.



You write

A tasty little item from IKEA

Martin Nicholson writes to say that on a recent shopping trip to IKEA in Rennes he came across the floor coverings pictured below. "Two of these just fit the rear floor in a Light 15 and should save the Wilton. OK, not original, but I'm sure André would have approved!!"



What's in your garage?

Mike Tebbett says "Apart from the 1927 Donnet (which has been featured in the TOC calendar) ... my Traction shares space with the 1925 Amilcar C4 and the 1922 LSD Cyclecar pictured overleaf."

September Events

Surrey, Hampshire & Sussex Borders Section - 20th September. Rural Life Centre Tilford Road Nr. Farnham. Surrey. Classic car show. Contact Helen to book.

London Section - 8pm on **29th September** at The Rose of York, Petersham Road, Richmond, London TW10. Please ring Pete or Sue Simper before you go to check that the meeting is going ahead.

Turweston Wings & Wheels 2009 - 20th September. The annual show of vintage and classic aircraft, cars, motorbikes, agricultural machinery and lots of other displays will take place at Turweston Aerodrome, Biddlesden Road, Westbury, Brackley. NN13 5YD on 20th September 2009.

Hot and cold refreshments will be available all day at several locations. There will be a pig roast and barbeque on the parade field and drinks and sandwiches will be available in the cafe. We will also have two ice cream vans.

Gates open to visitors at 10.00am. Parades will begin at 1.00pm. For more details please visit the airfield's website at http://www.turwestonflight.com/Wings_and_Wheels/wandw_2009_main.htm.

Entry £5 per person (under 12's free). It will be well worth hanging on at the end of the day - the famous Vulcan will fly over Turweston Aerodrome at approximately 4.45pm. Don't miss the opportunity to see this wonderful aeroplane in flight.



Mike Tebbett's 1925 Amilcar C4 and 1922 LSD Cyclecar

TOC Classifieds

Wanted: Set of front wings and front grill for a 1956 Paris Built Light 15, in good or reasonable condition. Please contact John Cresswell on 020 8560 3261 or email: jcress23@aol.com
Please contact Roger at : rogerarnold1@btconnect.com

TOC Quick Links

TOC website:

www.traction-owners.co.uk

TOC spares hotline email:

spares@traction-owners.co.uk

TOC helpline email:

helpline@traction-owners.co.uk

TOCtech email: totech@traction-owners.co.uk
TOC membership email: membership@traction-owners.co.uk
TOC magazine email: editor@traction-owners.co.uk
Nicholas Greene's TA Forum: <http://tractionavant.forumcircle.com/portal.php>
Oliver de Serres' videos of the Traction: <http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=nxrl-vvDMWE>
<http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=sNK-nfL0skE>
<http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=svVchPE6Zi0>
Classic French numberplates: <http://www.classic-number-plate.com/french-classic-plates.html>
Cliff Sykes' video of the 2009 TOC Annual Rally : <http://www.traction-owners.co.uk/social/2009/Float-In-Power/2009AnnualRallyvideo.htm>

Tailpiece

A blonde was sent on her way to Heaven.

Upon arrival, a concerned St Peter met her at the Pearly Gates. 'I'm sorry,' St Peter said; 'But Heaven is suffering from an overload of goodly souls and we have been forced to set an Entrance Exam for new arrivals.'

'That's cool' said the blonde 'but what does the Entrance Exam consist of?'

'Just three questions' said St Peter. 'The first is, which two days of the week start with the letter 'T' ? The second is How many seconds are there in a year? and the third is What was the name of the swagman in Waltzing Matilda?'

So the blonde went away and gave those three questions some considerable thought (I expect you to do the same). The following morning, St Peter called upon the blonde and asked if she had considered the questions, to which she replied, 'I have.'

'Well then,' said St Peter, 'Which two days of the week start with the letter T?'

The blonde said, 'Today and Tomorrow.'

St Peter pondered this answer for some time, and decided that indeed the answer can be applied to the question. 'Well then, could I have your answer to the second of the three questions? How many seconds in a year?'

The Blonde replied, 'Twelve!'

'Only twelve?' exclaimed St Peter, 'How did you arrive at that figure?'

'Easy,' she said, 'there's the second of January, the second of February, right through to the second of December, giving a total of twelve seconds.'

St Peter looked at the blonde and said, 'I need some time to consider your answer before I can give you a decision.' And he walked away shaking his head.

A short time later, St Peter returned to the Blonde and said: 'I'll allow the answer to stand, but you need to get the third and final question absolutely correct to be allowed into Heaven. Now, can you tell me the answer to the name of the swagman in Waltzing Matilda?'

The blonde replied: 'Of the three questions, I found this the easiest to answer.'

'Really!' exclaimed St Peter, 'and what is the answer?'

'It's Andy' said the blonde

'Andy??' queried St Peter

'Yes, Andy' said the blonde.

This totally floored St Peter, and he paced this way and that, deliberating the answer.

Finally, he couldn't stand the suspense any longer, and turning to the blonde, asked, 'How in God's name did you arrive at THAT answer?'

'Easy' said the blonde, 'Andy sat, Andy watched, Andy waited till his billy boiled.....'

And the blonde entered Heaven...

[and before you complain - I don't write them, I only print what you send me]