Traction Owners Club Ltd

e-FP

Monthly Newsletter **Issue 9 June 2009**

The famous phrase from the TV sitcom Dad's Army - "Don't panic Mr Mainwaring" - sprang to mind a couple of days ago when I was starting to think about this edition of e-FP and I decided to carry out some maintenance on the distribution list that I created for last month's newsletter.

About 6 newsletters couldn't be delivered last month because the email addresses the TOC has for these Members are out of date so I tried to delete them. When I did so all 400 email addresses (that I had spent hours & hours creating last month) just disappeared in front of my eyes - hence the "Don't panic Mr Mainwaring"!!!

As this appears to be a known MS Outlook problem there is a well documented solution on the MS Outlook online help system - so a few minutes later the distribution list was recovered - but I'm not sure that my nerves will recover for quite a while. It is important however that if you change your email address (and you want to continue receiving e-FP) that you remember to let me know your new email address.

Summer has arrived here in the Shushwap and at 08.30 this morning the temperature was 19C. Barb was chuffed because she picked the first crop from her vegetable plot today (radishes - which were sown just 3 weeks ago) and next week we will be bottling our first 23 litres of wine (which we started a month or so ago in the local wine shop).

Our 'everyday' transport - a 1968 Chrysler New Yorker - now appears to be working OK after a few teething problems following it's Winter rest in our garage and last week we also bought a 1988 Ford pickup truck to supplement the fleet as it is 24 kms from our house to the nearest town.

With its 7 litre engine (19 miles to the gallon) the Chrysler - which is pictured to the left - is probably an unnecessary extravagance and definitely isn't the greenest vehicle on the planet.

But with petrol at about 50% of the price in the UK and insurance (and road tax combined) at something like £130 for six months who cares as the car is a fantastic daily driver and is much appreciated by many people here.

TOC News

TOC Committee

The next meeting of the TOC committee will take place on Sunday 14th June 2009, commencing promptly at 11am, at the Tickford Centre, Newport Pagnell, MK16 9BG.

NEC - Classic Motor Show 2009

John Reynolds has stepped forward to take charge of the TOC stand at the Classic Motor Show at the NEC in November with Mick & Moira Holmes.

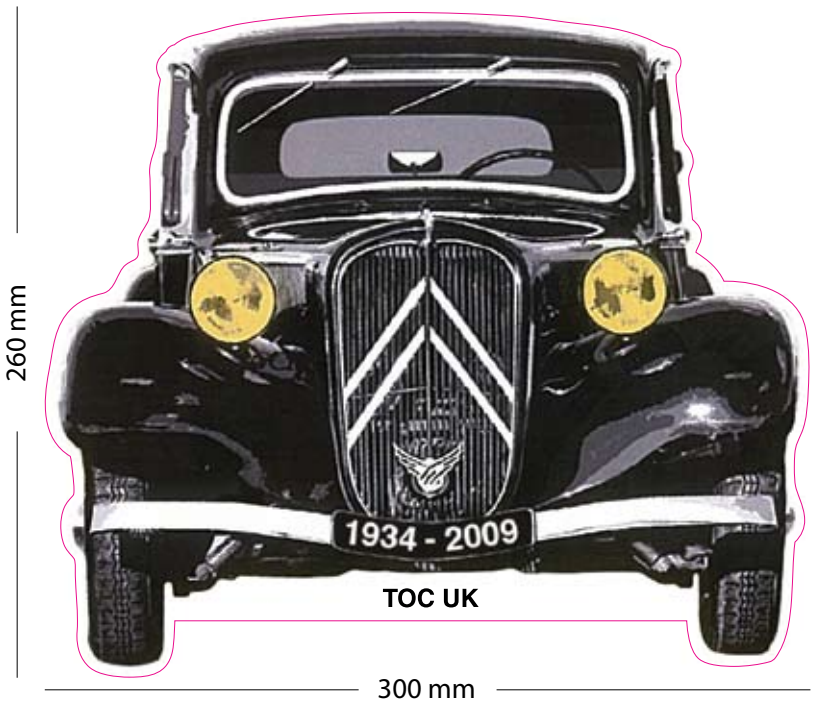
The Reynolds/Holmes team is now looking for about 10/12 cars to celebrate 75 years of the Traction Avant and would like to display the 'oldest to the newest 'with as wide and varied selection of cars as possible. To complement the display of cars John Reynolds is going to enlarge some photos with details telling the story of the Traction from start to finish.

Members are also required to man the stand during the show as Mick, Moira and John will only be available to set up the stand on Thursday 12th November and to break it down on Sunday 15th.

So if you have a car you would like to offer for the stand or if you would like to see the show and are prepared to help man the Club stand on Friday 13th, Saturday 14th or Sunday 15th November please contact either Mick and Moira on helpline@traction-owners.co.uk or John Reynolds on john.reynolds53@btinternet.com.

Club Shop

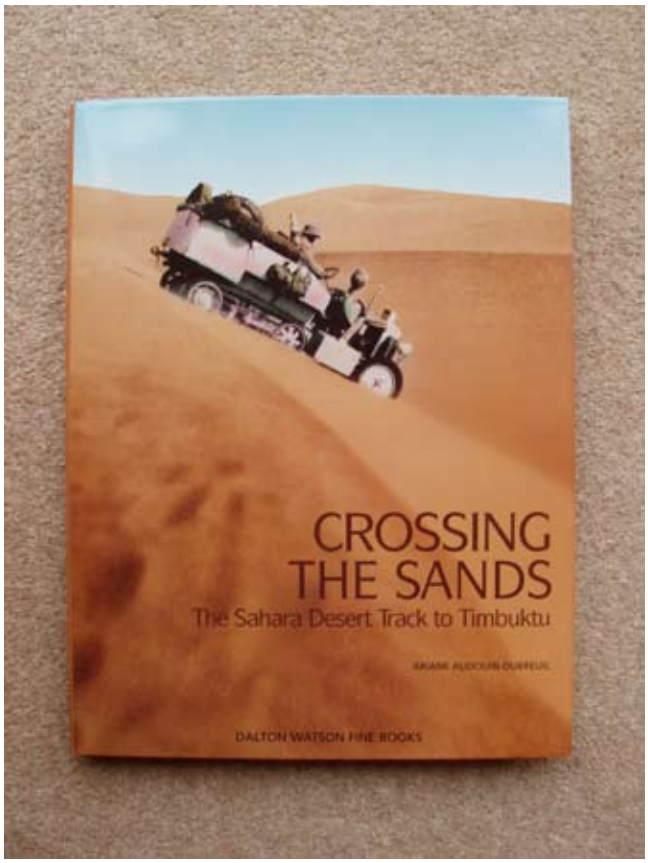
Our new TOC Club shopkeeper, Barry Curtis, is thinking of ordering a stock of 75th Anniversary clocks. Would any members who might be interested in purchasing an anniversary clock (see image below) for approximately £17.99 each pus p&p, please contact Barry on 01243 266129 or clubshop@traction-owners.co.uk.

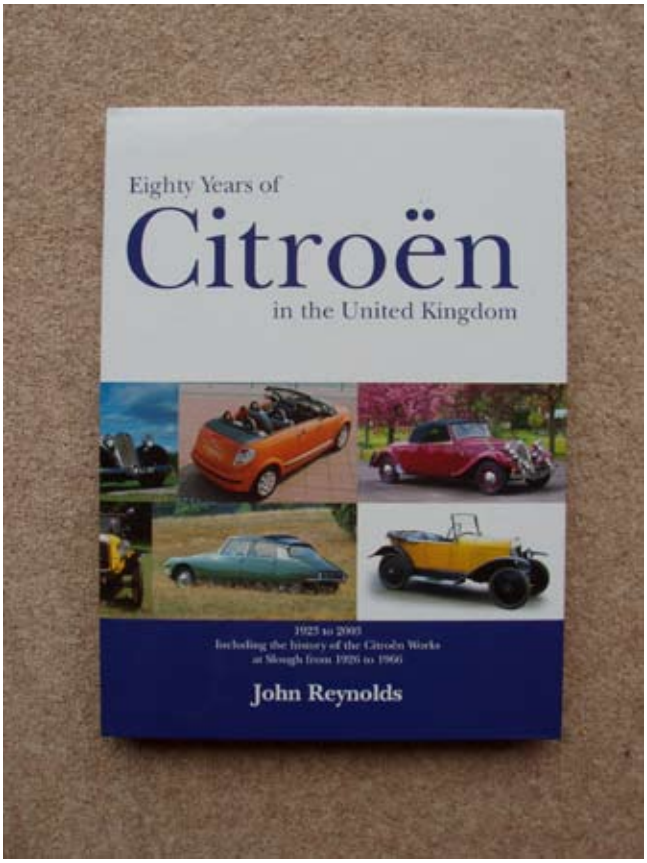


Barry also has the opportunity to purchase for his stock two of John Reynolds' books which would be available to TOC Members at 75% of their RRP (plus p & p).

The books are:

- "80 Years of Citroën in the UK" (rrp £39) - the title is self-explanatory
- "Crossing the Sands" (rrp £35) - the story of the Crossiere Jaune half-track Sahara expedition.





Again if any Members would be interested in purchasing either (or both) of the above books at this significantly discounted price please contact Barry as above for more information.

Finally Barry needs to place an order for one sweatshirt and would like to know if anyone else would like to purchase any clothing before he does so. Will any Members wishing to purchase 75th anniversary merchandise please contact Barry as soon as possible.

75 for 75 - Arras July 2009

Saturday-evening July 11th. 7:30pm. Would TOC Members who do not have tickets for the gala-dinner but who would like to join other TOC members for the alternative Saturday evening dinner please contact Walter and Noella Callens as soon as possible by e-mail: rest-of-the-world@traction-owners.co.uk or phone (weekend only) 0032/50 42 58 36.

The price in the typical ARRAS-restaurant where the alternative Saturday evening dinner will take place is 25 euros per person for a 3 course-meal including apéritif maison and for each 4 persons: 1 bottle of wine + 1 bottle of water, and coffee or tea afterwards.

When contacting Walter and Noella please remember to state the number of people in your party so that they can make a reservation on your behalf and send you a confirmation.

Currently Walter and Noella have 58 bookings and the maximum is 70!!!!

TOC AGM - 28/29th November 2009

Many TOC members will remember that the Quality Hotel at Walsall - where the TOC AGM has been held for a number of years - is no longer available and that Steve Southgate was asked to find an alternative.

Steve has been in touch with The Great Barr Hotel (www.thegreatbarrhotel.com), which is slightly smaller than the Quality Hotel, and has been told that they will be happy to offer us the same price as last year (£50 per person, £100 per couple) for bed breakfast, 3 course meal and entry to a Robbie Williams Tribute and Disco, all inclusive.

The bar is adjacent to the function room and there is a reception area for those who might wish to escape the music.

If 100 TOC Members and guests were to book for the weekend the event would be exclusive to the TOC, as last year, but if less that 100 TOC Members and their guests book for the weekend the hotel will market the remaining tickets to the general public (max 130 people).

The 106 room hotel is privately run, has ample car parking and is just 2 miles from junction 7 on the M6.

Members wanting to book a pre-Christmas weekend away in the Midlands at the bargain price of £100 per couple please contact Steve Southgate at steve@imperial-cars.co.uk or on 0121 352 1100,

Drive-IT-Day 2009

Drive-It-Day 2009 was held on Sunday 26th April. Hopefully many TOC Members took the opportunity to support this important FBHVC initiative and to drive their Traction on the day.

To date however I have received only one account (from Alec Bilney) of a TOC Section's event and as the deadline for input to the July/August edition of Floating Power is rapidly approaching could other Section co-ordinators please ensure that they send me an account and photographs of their DID outing.

On the subject of Floating Power - my bottom drawer is again getting dangerously near the empty mark so any articles from TOC members will be very gratefully received.

Other News

Bromley Pageant of Motoring 2009

Surprisingly I haven't received a single response to my simple competition in the May/June edition of Floating Power - the prize for which is two family tickets for the Bromley Pageant of Motoring valued at £25 each.

The Bromley Pageant - which is billed as being the biggest one-day classic vehicle show in the world - will be held on Sunday 14th June, so there is very little time left for me to post tickets to the winners from Canada.

As I don't want the tickets to go to waste I'm changing the rules - so the first two TOC Members to correctly identify the car pictured on page 10 of the May/June edition of Floating Power, and to email the answer to me, will receive a free £25 family ticket which will admit 2 adults and 2 children to the Pageant.

You write

'Other' News

Reg Taylor writes "*We in this remote part of the world (South Africa) don't have much exposure to Tractions and we are really starved of Traction news, therefore news is always most welcome.'*

Howard Speirs says *' I agree with you... "general motoring interest" articles are very welcome... I don't subscribe to any classic car mags (time & cost!).'*

Simon Saint wrote*: 'Thanks for the latest e-FP which works fine! I don't think you are wasting your time including non traction specific items, they are often of interest as are similar items in 2CVGB and FP (and the Citroënian for that matter).'*

Mick Holmes commented: '*E-FP direct to my email worked fine - I do not think you are wasting your time with the varied articles you place in the FP, I for one find them of interest as I do not buy lots of magazines and the important information you present may well go by unnoticed.'*

Mick Popka writes*: "Not being a subscriber to other motoring journals, the latest news from the FBHVC is something that I find particularly interesting as it gives a "forward view" of the next red-tape proposal."*

Phil Wild said *"This e-FP opened fine and I find all the additional information "that can be obtained elsewhere" invaluable because I don't buy lots of mags to get it. I only get FP and e-FP so please continue your great work in keeping us informed."*

Alastair Carter wrote*: "Many thanks for your issues of e-fp. I enjoy all parts of it and as you say not everyone buys heaps of glossy mags every month be it on cost or principle! Keep up the good work, I for one certainly appreciate it as a welcome addition to Floating Power dropping thru my letter box."*

Your favourite film containing Tractions

Jonathan Miller writes "*FYI the film referenced in your article on cinema Tractions is "The Quiet American" (not the Quite American) starring Michael Caine and Brendan Fraser and many Tractions numerous of which are blown up! Musn't forget Diva with its 'multiple' traction subplot... with memorable theme song from la Wally.'*

Simon Saint said *'Tom Evans' comment on L'Armee des Ombres as 'a bit sombre' is something of an understatement. It is so depressing it should only be watched on a wet and dull November afternoon, but it is still well worth it.'"*

Barry Plant writes *" whilst not in a film, I recently saw a television programme with, in the background, a line of Tractions. This was in episode 6 of series 3 of "Drop the Dead Donkey".*

Colour vs Black & White

Howard Speirs says "*I wouldn't want to see FP in colour... it is a "treasured collection" and as such, one of the important aspects is consistency of "look" but colour in TOC Tech would be OK by me. However, e-FP is not "collectable" in that sense... so colour would be more than welcome in the PDF format."*

Simon Saint also wrote "*Maybe this comment is a little late but I think some colour in FP is a good move. Monochrome is very atmospheric and artistic but the magazine also has to be informative and the use of colour can aid that, not all tractions are black and a colour photo of a car in a 'colour' is definitely going to be an enhancement*.

David Boyd enters the debate with "*I think we have a fab Magazine but whilst Black and White is 'period' so to speak we do live in the 21st Century and maybe we do need to bring it up to date with a little Colour, I rather like the Magazine La Vie de L'Auto which has Colour for the first 2 or 3 pages (front and rear) and the rest in B&W. It just gives a lift to the mag which used to look a bit dull before colour was adopted.. To be fair I suppose it sells better with some colour but aren't we trying to sell our fantastic cars as well as ourselves? Come on you guys….. get with it!.*

Mick Holmes also writes "*Regarding colour How many club magazines are there that print only in B/W ? By all means the outer cover should remain in B/W but to introduce colour into the magazine I believe can only enhance and improve an excellent product."*

Nicholas Clark says "I was VERY dubious about printing Floating Power in colour, but the pages you sent out in an earlier E-version worked OK for me, to my surprise. I feel that photos of components work, as you can better see the details, but for the cover & other full car pix, B&W rules !"

Cliff Richards writes "*re colour/bw - from the examples I have seen, colour looks very good and from my point of view a combination and mix could be quite welcome but cost has to be considered. I am a firm believer in keeping things simple and cost effective."*

Phil Wild also wrote: "*I think it is probably time to change to colour for the contents of the mag but as others are suggesting perhaps keep the cover as it is. Certainly technical photographs are much clearer to understand in colour and I think my January photograph in the calender looked much better and much more striking in colour, even though I did check it in B&W before sending it off*. "

Andy Burnett says: "*With regard to colour V black and white, I really have no preference except for the price issue. If it costs more, there is the very real danger of losing members aplenty(we had a big problem with losing members in the Scottish section of the C.C.C. when they put up the "Citroenian" subscription some years ago) and that is the last thing we want*."

Mike Bigland says "*My opinion with regard to the magazine is that it should stay in B&W. However a few colour pics in e-FP would work well. (see our car Matilde overleaf)*"

June Events

Annual Rally - Pendennis Castle, Cornwall **19th to 21st June.** If you are not already signed up you need to act very quickly now so contact Howard Speirs asap.

Eastern Section - 8pm on **24th June** at The Royal Forest, Rangers Road, Chingford, London E4 7HQ. Please ring Steve Shinebroom before you go to check that the meeting is going ahead because of its proximity to the Annual Rally.

Hampshire & Sussex Borders Section - Sunday **21st June** meeting at the Fairmile, Cobham from 12 noon onwards.

London Section - 8pm on **30th June** 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.

Peak Section - The next Peak Section meeting is on **Sunday 7th June**. The plan is to meet at John & Bev Oates house at around 11.00 for coffee and to leave there at 12.00 ish to drive down to Heage Windmill for a tour of the windmill. If it is sunny the plan is picnic around the Tractions - if not the plan is to eat your lunch in your car and then drive down to a local pub for a drink. If you plan to go please let Bev know - she needs to know how many cups to wash!!

On the evening of **Wednesday, 10th June**, from 6pm to 10pm, there will be a Classic Car Evening Meet at Mallory Park Race Circuit, Leicestershire as part of the “Charity 24 Hour Buzzathon” when a couple of people plan to drive a 48cc Piaggio Ape van for 24 hours non-stop around the circuit, to raise funds for charity. A dedicated classic car parking area will be provided in the centre of the circuit and will be open to all classic cars of whatever age. Admission will be free although the organisers will ask for a donation to their charitable fundraising – how much is up to you.

The **Ace Cafe** on the north circular has a French classic and performance car night on the 3rd Monday of every month and this year the **15th of June** is Classic Citroën Night. It runs from 6pm until 11pm. It would be good to see as many Citroëns there as possible. Put it in your diary now. For further info, see their website www.ace-cafe-london.com

TOC Classifieds

Wanted: Rear view mirror and internal light for 1949 Light 15 with sunroof. Buy or swop for a pair of locking T-handles for Slough small boot car. Sean Crowley +358 400 192271. seancrowley@ hotmail.co.uk

Wanted: Is there anybody out there who has a windscreen assembly for a Light 15 Roadster that I could buy or borrow to have copied. I have a contact that can cast the pillars but I need a pattern to work from, any help would be appreciated. Please contact Phil Allison 01256 761444 or 07899 658634

Wanted: by new member, small boot Light 15 in very good condition.Tel. Graham Eaton on 01636 893 895.

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: toctech@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=nxrI-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
GUILDE MONDIALE DES TRACTIONNISTES (GMT) http://www.traction-avant.com/indexGB.html
Autocollection.Org http://www.auto-collection.org/

And finally - the Veyron Gods shone on Mike Tebbett at the 'La Vie en Bleu' event at Prescott at the end of May when he managed to blag a ride in the demonstrator that was at the show.