SEPTEMBER 2008

As Roy said at the beginning of last months Newsletter, it is twenty years since it all began, so I thought I would elaborate a bit on how we started. Previously one of our founder members, Jim Anderson, had sent out quick notes to people if an event was in the offing. In June 1988, Doug and I along with Alan, Barb, Roy and Kim went to an event somewhere in Bedfordshire being held by the then Bedfordshire Area which has since folded before starting up again as the present Area17. It was a very hot day and Jaguar were competing at Le Mans in what turned out to be their first victory since their return after the fifties successes. We were listening on a "trannie" and let out a great cheer as they won. At some point in this event cars were being driven around a little arena. One of the host members wanted someone to drive what must have been his second car and he asked me if I would take his Mark 2 round. As most of you know I am a non -driver so he asked Barb. I know she won't mind me passing on that she didn't find it very responsive as she still had the hand brake on. We were made extremely welcome and were asked back to the house of one of the members to a Barbecue in the garden. During the afternoon we had been given a copy of their very professional Newsletter which, if I remember rightly, was sponsored by a local shop. The six of us talked about it and said that our Area really needed a regular Newsletter. I said that I wouldn't mind writing one, but I couldn't type. Kim said she would do that and Roy said he could print and distribute it. So that is the story behind the first edition which Roy reprinted last time.

The new venue for the Steam and Country Show seemed to have been quite popular, with several people expressing the opinion that Cuffley needed a show of this kind. The weather on the Sunday morning was dreadful, but the afternoon was sunny. On Monday, despite a promise of sunshine, it remained dull and cool most of the time. On Sunday, things could have got quite nasty when one of the heavy horses was spooked by something and bolted. Luckily the horse wasn't injured, and no spectators were hurt.

We were very apprehensive about the Barbecue at our house on August 31st as the forecast was awful. Luckily the early morning rain cleared off and by the time people arrived at about one o'clock it was OK. After most of the Barbecue food and desserts had been eaten and we were enjoying tea and cake, the clouds looked very black so we beat a hasty retreat in doors and just managed to get the gazebo that Alan and Barb had brought, down before the heavens opened.

I gather that the Buntingford Classic event was a good show, with Len's car being chosen as best car of the day.

Apparently the show at Capel Manor had a good turnout despite bad weather, and the event at St. Mary's school at Bishops Stortford attracted plenty of cars.

The season is now drawing to a close but Brian Kingsley has passed on a few more dates:

Battlesbridge - Sunday 28th September 9am- 4pm.

Motor Show for Mayor's Appeal - Saffron Walden Common Sunday 5th October 10am to 4pm, Free Entry.

Festival And Classic Car Show 4th & 5th October 10am to 5pm - Furneux Pelham Contact Helen or Les 01279-777154.

Stoneleigh Spares Day Sunday 19th October.

Don't forget that Barb is taking names for the Breakfast Run on 12th October, and Keith Oswick will be selling tickets for the Race Night which will be taking place at the Whitewebbs Museum on 11th October.

Dick has passed on the Club's certificate for contributing to the cost of re-surfacing the yard at the Whitewebbs Museum, and has also received the thanks of the organisers of the Little Haven Hospice Show for our contribution.

In case it has not been noticed in the Calendar, the Christmas Dinner is booked for December 13th and once the Breakfast Run is out of the way, Barb will start collecting names for that.

Don't forget that there is a three week gap before the next meeting.