



Winter

NEWSLETTER 2015/16



Greetings from the Fun Capital!

Well you all seem to think I do nothing but play around all day- the truth is you work extra hard to fit everything in!

Not sure whether its an age thing but work seems to be harder and often not quite such fun as it used to be – perhaps its only for a season??? The cyclical Motor trade seems to have hit new heights and depths. Perhaps we shall finish up like the English Summer resorts with only 3-4 months to make any money. I am trying to emulate a friend in the fairground business who now manages to work most of the year through with special Christmas and Winter Attractions.

More reliable cars, much extended warranties all add up to seeing our customers much less. In the days of 3,000 mile services and not-so-reliable motors we got to see and know our customers much better. With the passing of time many of our established customers have given up driving or even passed on! Stopping to reconsider the passing of years our business clocks up 80 years of trading next year and for this 'apprentice' 50 years of hard labour!

Another shock to the system was the arrival of a Brutonian bus in original livery and stopping over for a photo shoot in its past surroundings. This was when Chris Knubley bought the existing sidings site from British Rail to build and run his bus service. "Change and decay all around I see" – not always. So many of you, and visitors, enjoy our new offices and folk already think its an original building!



Bygone Days



Much to bring you up to date with. The Summer Newsletter was of a nautical nature....well it continued by the intrepid voyage of 12 good men and true, boarding the Motor Torpedo boat at Watchet and crossing the Bristol channel. Launching a surprise attack on the unsuspecting Welsh by navigating into Tiger Bay, (Cardiff) and storming the local hostelry's before escaping using the lee of Flat Holm to hide our escape! *(Boys and toys!)*

Further water adventures was the maiden voyage of the Healey boat, well laden with family, going up part of the Thames – The speed was restricted by bye-laws but made all the more enjoyable by the beautiful



National Car Museum, Mullhouse

weather, and the flattering comments. Local difficulties in finding a lake led us to Basingstoke to access its capabilities. Whilst not reaching its advertised top speed it performed well enough – not as easy as changing a ‘chip’ to enhance performance of 1956 Morris 1600cc engine, (*we were never going to catch Donald Campbell’s Bluebird*). Having mentioned Campbell he used 2 similar Healey boats as tenders for Bluebird and a bigger turbine Healey boat was built using the Dowty jet propulsion system. The two Donald’s: Healey and Campbell were good friends (*Note: another useless fact you have learned!*) Maybe next year will see us at Windermere or Henley!



Driver of the Year?



All Aboard?

Getting thoughts of Healey out of my system, We managed a quick four-day dash through France to Alsace and the National Car Museum at Mullhouse (*and a spot of wine tasting in the Champagne district*).



Healey Weekend



The Three Queens on the Mersey

Trying to keep up with a throbbing 4.3 V8 MGR was a challenge but a captivating sound to follow. A little daunting in Calais as migrants appeared out of nowhere running in front of us and being chased by Gendarmes. The hundreds of trucks queuing behind the expensive built British Fence didn't appear to prevent these determined folk. A two hour static queue on the M3 made me appreciate the joy of Bruton's traffic problems!

The Healey Club weekend in Abingdon this year enjoyed lovely weather and was further enhanced by No:1 son, wife and grandchildren in his 1966 Sprite. How on earth did I ever manage to curl my legs into one of them?

UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS

A period train trip by a classic diesel hauled us to Liverpool to witness the 3 Queens, (*Victoria, Mary and Elizabeth*) celebrating 150 years years of Cunard by lining up 3 abreast outside the offices in the Mersey. So many folk the city was totally gridlocked including the Station!!

A family wedding on the beach in Skiathos was an idyllic setting and the water so warm and clear that you thought you were in paradise.

A Birthday (*another one*) to Shuttleworth Air Museum, so much to see from displays from WWI, WW11 and then the Vulcan bringing a lump to the throat. As the captain told us "Don't be sad that we would never see it fly again but to be glad you have seen it fly".

Liberation of Jersey – Our intrepid band of World War 2 AEC Matador trucks tried to catch the Sea Cat from Poole but were in danger of being left behind as

being overweight (*trucks not drivers*). However at the last possible moment we were allowed to board. The island makes every effort to celebrate their liberation in 1945. Restrictions to big trucks were temporarily lifted so we went wherever we could squeeze. The wartime dinner dance was the best I have ever been to. A fun filled weekend and apart from one adventurous driver getting stuck on the beach, we had another brilliant trip.

I did mention we had gained a sizeable piece of artillery. Thanks to the wily skills and dogged determination of Tony Bolton. He persuaded a 1943 5½" Howitzer to leave its home in a hedge, just before it's auction date. Weighing over 6 tons it is not a trifle to be toyed with but being the exact gun that the Matador was designed for it should be a show stopping combination. I think it is the company balance sheet as "An aid to debt collection- you have been warned!!"

To Work Mes Ami's

Surprisingly we are working hard behind the scenes. The MOD decided to take several vehicles out of storage, that we put to bed ten years ago. After hibernation they need major servicing particularly oils seals etc. Brakes need to get hot to bed in and thus need loading, necessitating coming back through Bruton High Street – Sorry about that. By the time you read this they will have all gone home; I shall miss them. We nearly had to put a sign up 'Full House' but some how we always manage to squeeze another one in. In case we have a few minutes in between the flow of Tankers we are busy refurbishing huge skip bins which I am assured is akin to the old adage of 'painting the Forth Bridge'.



Car, Van and Truck accident plus paintwork continues to keep us busy. MOT's are an interesting conundrum. Bruton has never offered cut price MOT'S. Customers have an inherent suspicion that in order to make up the difference faults might be elaborated-so its a no win situation. The Government new MOT procedure / equipment is now totally funded by the garages -"nice cost cutting Mr Osborne!"

The V.W débâcle is a sad reflection on how pressure from society; governments and industry make us lose sight of any old fashioned integrity. National doping, cricket rigging and football backhanders PLUS motor racing doubts confirm that we have all but lost our moral compass.

Not only our integrity but our common sense has been abandoned not only by swathes of society but by our leaders. Having watched a documentary on our electricity industry we continue to close our coal fired power stations knowing we haven't enough power to get us through a cold winter! Don't even mention Hinkley Point or our Steel Industry – I worry for my Grandchildren!

Good News that Bruton station gets a stopping train for London, Just a shame that the timing is not convenient but it is a start-who knows what the future will hold?

So we are back where we started
- THE FUN CAPITAL!



5.5inch Howitzer on the move



Fun Run for the Trucks



Storming the Atlantic Wall in Jersey

Here is to a joyful Christmas to you all. May the New Year bring us fresh hope and new challenges and peace to our still lovely country.

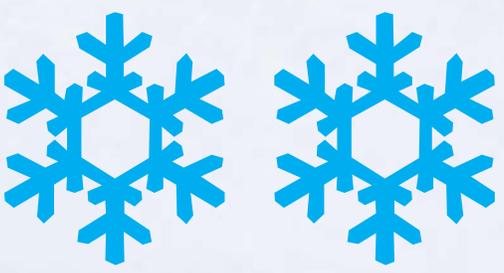
*To our customers, old, new (and hopefully a younger generation)
 Thank you for all your custom, Loyalty and forbearance*

HEALTH AND HAPPINESS TO YOU ALL!!!

CHEERS
Jordan. W. Fry

*"May the favour of the Lord rest upon us;
 establish the work of our hands for us"*
 - Psalm 90:17

AND AFTER THE PARIS SHOOTINGS:
"Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid"
 - John 14:27



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