Newsletter of East Midlands Section

An Affiliate of the Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club



THE CUSTODIAN

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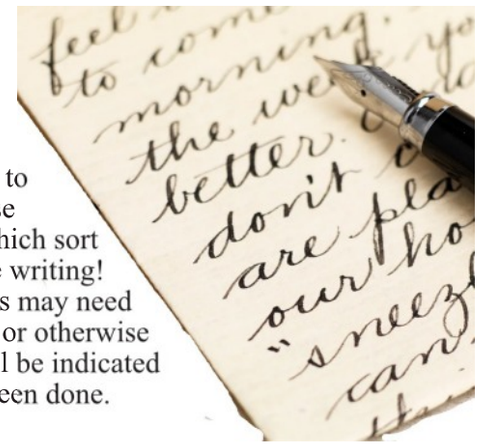
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Letters to the Editor

Have your say

The Custodian is your magazine about your Section of the Club.

We would like to hear from you about Club activities and what you would like to read about in this newsletter.



Letters may either be for publication or just a communication to the editor. Please make it clear which sort of letter you are writing! Published letters may need to be shortened or otherwise edited but it will be indicated when this has been done.

Page Key

Reports **Bookings**

Coming events **Articles**

October edition copy deadline

Copy to be received by the editor by 31st August please.

Formalities

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Safety: In addition to observing any safety procedures, which are explained and/or displayed, members and their guests have a "duty of care" to themselves; i.e. people are responsible for their own safety.

On the front cover

Climbing Stanton Hill on the old South Derbyshire test routes with Michael and Sue Ensor's 20HP. This car is a real survivor having suffered a major fire while in the USA and being rebuilt in its present form in 1980 on repatriation to the UK.

See page 9 for more cars on Stanton Hill.

On the front cover 2
Section Contact Details 2
Committee
With Specific Responsibilities
October edition copy deadline 2
Page Key 2
Formalities 2
Letters to the Editor 2
Have your say
Chairwoman's Letter 3
More pictures from Shadow Workshop 4
Spring Lunch at Ye Olde Bell Hotel – Report 4
Sunday 23rd March 2025 – Barnby Moor, Retford
Welbeck Hall – West Bridgford – Report 5
Sunday 13th April 2025 – Illuminating Lunch and the Temple
Shadow Hands-On Workshop – Report 5
Tuesday 20th May 2025
Wings and Wheels – Report 6
Friday 16th – Sunday 18th May 2025
Stanbrook Spring Break – Report 10
2nd – 4th June 2025
Visit the Taroni's home, Haselour Hall 12
Sunday 6th July 2025 Picnic including Tom Telfer Award
East Midlands RREC Badge and Clip 12
Thornbridge Hall – House and Cream Tea .. 13
Sunday 20th July 2025
Newsletter Subscription 13
Harrogate Weekend 1st – 4th August 2025 14
Including the North of England Rally on the Sunday
Visit & Picnic Fairfield Lake and Smite Brook Railway – Pailton 16
Sunday 10th August 2025
Bank Holiday Picnic – Somersal Mill Farm 17
Sunday 24th August 2025
More Wings & Wheels Shots 17
Pre-war Small Horsepower Workshops 18
9th and 16th September 2025
Picnic at Heage Windmill 19
Sunday 21st September 2025
Stonehurst Farm and Motor Museum 20
Sunday 12th October 2025
Section Christmas Lunch - Makeney Hall 21
Sunday 7th December 2025
Keeping her running without bankruptcy 22
Some thoughts from the workshop
Event forms and booking note 22
Diary – Summer/Autumn 2025 23
From the Editor 23
Wings and Wheels – Photo record 23
Welcome to new members to our Section 24
Newsletter Subscription 24

Chairwoman's Letter



Debbie Howard

We had a successful Wings and Wheels event last month. Thank you to all involved.

The Shadow Workshop was well received, don't forget to book for the Small HP Workshops in September – places are limited.

The Summer season of picnics is now upon us.

Our Grandson, Charlie, is coming with us to Haselour Hall on 6th July and will be fundraising for his school trip to Kenya later this year. Charlie has to fundraise to pay for his flights and accommodation, The Derby schoolchildren will be volunteering at schools in a developing part of Kenya. He will have items for sale and competitions for you to take part in, all for a good cause. **Bring some cash to spend please.**

Looking forward to seeing you all at future events.

Debbie Howard

Chairwoman ■

Spring Lunch at Ye Olde Bell Hotel – Report

Sunday 23rd March 2025 – Barnby Moor, Retford



Mike Wild

Once again, we met up with the Yorkshire Section on the boundaries of our borders at Ye Olde Bell Hotel, Barnby Moor, Nottinghamshire.



In 1650 Ye Olde Bell was a coaching stop on the London to York route. It has welcomed many famous guests including Queen Victoria. It has also been a checkpoint on the Monte Carlo Rally.

Some of the East Midlands members have traditionally made a weekend of it, starting with a relaxed journey on Saturday, taking in brunch at a transport café near Thoresby. Getting together for an evening meal allows us to catch up with friends and chat about projects and events attended over the winter.

Following a hearty breakfast on Sunday morning, the cars are lined up to form a display at the front of the hotel. Then chairs are positioned to watch the cars arriving in style, this year there were two full rows of cars, and what a spectacle it was. I do not think there were any empty parking spaces. Something for the organisers to consider for the future; what an ideal problem to have!

By the same token, this year nearly ninety members of the RREC sat down for a three-course lunch, that must be a record as well.

The hotel staff coped very well, even though there was at least one wedding reception taking place on the day.

Mike Wild, of the East Midlands Section, presented David Howard with a cartoon picture of Dave's "Shedow" for his birthday. An item that no doubt will adorn his garage (see page 20 of April's *Custodian* – ed).

Despite the heavy lunch, more food was consumed on Sunday evening, all this chatting makes one very hungry!

Following breakfast on Monday, we all headed for home, but not before having a light lunch at the Thoresby Transport Café.

Whilst I know the section has other events earlier in the new year, "Barnby Moor" seems like the start of the Section season to me, maybe it's because the nights are getting lighter or the weather is getting a little warmer, or just the fact that I know I will be using my Rolls-Royce car. ■

More pictures from Shadow Workshop





Welbeck Hall – West Bridgford – Report



Kevin McCormick

Sunday 13th April 2025 – Illuminating Lunch and the Temple

On Sunday April the 13th, 30 club members attended a carvery luncheon at Welbeck Hall the home of freemasonry in West Bridgford.



The meal, a carvery, was the first function organised by Kevin McCormick, and whilst the turnout was not as good as hoped for, the feedback was very positive. Clarification of parking arrangements and the post code might have been helpful (Note to Self!).

That said, many of us were treated to a very interesting talk along with a tour of the main Masonic temple by Roger Pegg, a past Master of several lodges, who combined it with a very interesting talk on the history and the degrees of masonry.



The tour was followed by a really splendid carvery with a choice of excellent meats as well as piping hot vegetables and a selection of delicious puddings.

Following the meal some members took the opportunity to make the most of the mild weather, with a stroll along the Trent embankment, taking in the Memorial Gardens on the other side of the bridge behind the splendid Welbeck Hall.

All in all a good day out and for those of us living locally, a tempting venue for a Sunday lunch. ■

Shadow Hands-On Workshop – Report



David Howard

Tuesday 20th May 2025

The Tuesday following Wings and Wheels we held a hands-on Workshop for Silver Shadow and derivative car owners.



This covered car electrical systems - with special reference to electrics in the Shadow doors, the Shadow's hydraulic braking and suspension system, modern techniques for cleaning and preparation of component for protective coatings and the work involved in "re-gassing" the Refrigeration system (R-R rather unhelpfully referring to the basic fan and heater as Air Conditioning!).

We received positive feedback and thanks – with various "homework" tasks having been completed by people on return home.

Thanks are due to the tutors: David, Martin, Mike, Nicholas and Rod, to GNC for hosting us, to Flying Spares for the parts and complete door donated to the Section and to A W Lymn for the donation of the Shadow engine. ■

Wings and Wheels – Report



Friday 16th – Sunday 18th May 2025 ***Mike Wild***

In May 2025, the RREC East Midlands Section hosted a superb and joyful weekend celebrating the history of Rolls-Royce in the city of Derby. Hosted in association with Derby City Council, Rolls-Royce plc and Great Northern Classics, the three-day event saw nearly 100 Members of the RREC – including International Members – gather for a weekend of interesting talks, fabulous cars and friendship.



The event started at the Great Northern Classics site in Derby on Friday, formerly the Rolls-Royce aluminium foundry where Members enjoyed looking at the eclectic display of vehicles and engines, before heading to the iconic Nightingale Road, the site of the old Rolls-Royce works and offices in Derby. Members were welcomed into the building where history was made and so many of the Club's beloved cars originated. For many, this was a truly historic moment, both in the history of Rolls-Royce, and to stand in the remnant of greatness.



Members were also invited to the Rolls- Royce plc, Learning & Development Centre, where they were met by four volunteer guides from the Rolls-Royce Heritage Trust, who gave insightful tours and potted history from the earliest Rolls-Royce motor products, through the development of the Merlin engine, to the huge RB 211 and finally the latest battery powered aeroplanes.

Outside the line up of cars was certainly a treat for Rolls-Royce workers and a very appreciative group of Chinese aero engine specialists who thought Rolls- Royce had arranged the lineup of cars especially for them.

Friday evening saw the group head to the wonderfully characterful Old Bell Hotel in the heart of the city centre, where they were treated to a delicious three-course dinner and an informative and entertaining after-dinner speech by local historian Richard Felix. Richard shared some of his favourite examples of people who have hailed from Derby, or who have helped put the city on the map, including Sir Henry Royce.

Saturday dawned somewhat grey and cold as the 44 Rolls-Royce and Bentley Club cars gathered on the historic Market Square in Derby city centre. Models ranged from a 1922 Silver Ghost through to a 2008 Bentley Arnage R,













offering the general public a plethora of stunning cars of all models and both marques to look at and enjoy. The Club was particularly pleased to be displaying two Phantoms, a model that is celebrating its centenary this year, as well as several examples of models made at the Derby factory, which greatly impressed the public who came to see these

Above from top left: Nightingale Road, Marble hall – Nightingale Road, At R-R LDC, The Grenadier (also below)







iconic vehicles. The market place was packed to capacity; it's hardly surprising as the Derby City Council had arranged media coverage on local radio and TV.

Lunch boxes plus tea and biscuits were provide free courtesy of the RREC for participating members and partners.

In the afternoon, the sun graced us with its presence, and the 44 gleaming cars looked majestic in the glorious sunshine, attracting thousands of members of the public, many of whom – including children – were lucky enough to be invited to sit inside some of these incredible cars. Members were thrilled to share with passers-by the history of their "pride and joys", and to promote the Club, as well as listen to the stories the public told us about their ancestors working at Rolls-Royce. This aspect was part of the objective of the Derby City Council to encourage the public to come into the city centre and tell their stories.

On Saturday evening, attendees were treated to a sumptuous three-course dinner at the Mickleover Hotel, and a captivating after-dinner talk by Will Hives, none other than the great-grandson of Lord Ernest Hives.





A name known to many in the Club, Lord Hives was the head of the Rolls-Royce Aero Engine division, playing a pivotal role in the design of the Merlin engine during the Second World War, especially for the Battle of Britain, who later went on to become Chairman of Rolls-Royce Ltd. Will shared with the guests a potted history of his great-grandfather's time at Rolls-Royce, adding some personal embellishments to the story, including never-before-seen medals and videos plus photographs of Lord Hives, films of family holidays, and a recording of a fabulous interview of Lord Hives when he landed in Australia to promote Rolls-Royce.

For any Rolls-Royce and Bentley lover, this talk was a truly wonderful and memorable speech, and many were fascinated by the additional insights that Will was able to share, as well as the contemporary material that he played to his captivated audience. It was just as though Lord Hives was in the room with us. The quality was great. During the speech you could have heard a pin drop, we were all truly spell-bound.













Above, clockwise from top left on the Test Routes at Stanton Hill without breaking sweat: Springfield Ghost, 20HP, 20/25, Silver Shadow, Lydia's Mini, Shadow II

Sunday was the culmination of the three day event and saw members driving their cars over the original test routes that Rolls-Royce engineers would have taken each new car on to establish performance before going to the body companies.

It was interesting for the owners to compare performance then with now, as cars up to 100 years old ascended the very routes once again.

The destination of the drive was Calke Abbey, an 18th Century National Trust site near Ticknall, Derbyshire, where members once again stunned local visitors with a fabulous line-up display of magnificent cars. Many Members chose to explore the historic house and sprawling gardens, and to enjoy a picnic in the sunshine alongside their

friends before heading for home.



BBC TV made contact on Sunday afternoon, wanting to know how the weekend had gone and required images for an update story to be televised the following morning.

The Wings & Wheels event – the first of its size and kind that the East Midlands Section has orchestrated with the support of its partners Derby City Council and Great Northern Classics – was a huge success, attracting the attention of major radio and TV channels and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. There were too many people involved to mention them all by name but especial thanks must be given for the help and support given to us by Club HQ staff. Lisa Alderson and Lydia Chapman were with us through the weekend and David Robinson (interim General Manager) joined us on Saturday. It was Lydia's swan-song in the Club as she has moved on to a significant promotion and she was duly thanked at the dinner by Philip Brooks.

The weekend was the perfect combination of history, learning, entertainment, driving and good company, and will live long in the memories of those who attended. We hope that this will be the first of many events like this for Club Members to enjoy. ■

Stanbrook Spring Break – Report



Charles Holford

2nd – 4th June 2025

The Stanbrook Spring Break is popular and attracts section members of the RREC from all over the country and even from abroad. Jeff Dennis (East Midlands Section) has run it for many years and it has become a "stand out" rally in the RREC annual curriculum, for good reason. Jeff's clarion call of "the three F's" namely Good Food, Good Fun and Good Friendship is attractive and invites interest. But there is more to it than that as those who participate are all friends. "There are no strangers at this rally, only friends that you have yet to meet" –so says Jeff.

Jeff has many aspects of character that help; nothing gets him down. I would not be surprised if you took his jacket off you would find a placard on his back reading "today is a good day and tomorrow will be an even better day". Jeff has had some help with this rally, namely his wife June, and from the administration section who him gave support, so many thanks to them.



So, what did we do on this rally?

It all started on **Monday 2nd June** in the afternoon when 35 Rolls-Royce and Bentley cars carrying 79 people arrived at Stanbrook Abbey Hotel. We were greeted with a traditional cream tea of scones, strawberry jam and cream. The hotel staff had soon judged which one of our cars they would like "to take home". The winners were Peter and Susan Walton in their Phantom II.

Next, an excellent dinner where old friends re-established contact and new friendships began. Entertainment after dinner is the norm on the Spring Break. We were spoilt as there were two separate shows. The first, a group of students from Birmingham School of Ballet and music "showcasing young talent" with a song and dance routine with a repertoire designed for the younger generation. This was very good for us as most members are in middle or later life! The second entertainment was a hugely gifted ventriloquist. The repartee was very quick and without error – not easy to do! He involved the audience in general, and Pat McGrath in particular, who went on stage and played his part very well. Continuous laughter meant aching sides were felt by all.



Tuesday 3rd June: Early breakfast for a start at 9 am driving 38 miles through the gorgeous Welsh Marches to The Hendre near Monmouth. The Hendre is the ancestral home and estate of the Rolls family, who begat Charles Rolls in 1877.

The Rolls Centre is based here is dedicated to preserving the

memory of Charles Rolls and the family. The Centre archivist and an assistant gave a lecture with a film about the Rolls family and their origins. They were farmers who sold farm land for housing development near Monmouth, thereby becoming extremely wealthy. Their wealth did allow Charles the freedom to become a "daredevil," including ballooning, driving cars at high speed and flying extremely unstable flying machines – one of which caused his demise in a crash at a young age. A film of his last flight was shown followed by a tour of the magnificent family mansion. It was an interesting visit if a little sad as the parents of Charles' generation lost all three of their sons while still relatively young.

The Black-Tie Gala Dinner followed. A variety of Dinner Jackets and waistcoats were on display, some very dashing. The ladies were exquisite in beautiful frocks and dresses, adorned with glittering jewellery. It was all quite dazzling. I knew there was a "Fancy Dress" evening on the rally and for a moment I thought I was wrongly attired but even if I had been it would not have mattered; after all I was amongst friends. A "Cliff Richard Tribute" act followed with a great singer who had a wide-ranging repertoire which allowed many to dance the night away. He had had the honour of performing at Cliff's 70th birthday so that is how good he was.

Wednesday 4th June: Another early start for travel to Ludlow in Shropshire where we were met by guides who took us in small groups around the castle and the town itself. I reckon Ludlow is unique with 400+ listed buildings, many from the 14 -15th century and nearly all with a fascinating history. The guided tour and the subsequent lunch at the Rugby Club were excellent.



Fancy dress **was** for this evening and oh, what a show it was for both boys and girls and so much inventiveness. Dazzling again but now with sequins and rhinestone as well as jewels; clothing of all types and colours, fur and feather, leather and canvas; a plethora of hats, one phantom mask and even light-bulb adornments which were switched ON and alight! This was clearly and expression of the variety of characters in the RREC? Another brilliant act completed our third night of entertainment: a resident pianist at Jools Holland's *Jam House* – no less. Absolutely first class. If you want an example of Jeff's "can do" skills ask him about booking this act when you next see him!



The next morning was one of mixed feelings. It was the end of a very good rally, time for heartfelt goodbyes to old and new friends from across the Club Sections and thanks to all the hotel staff who had looked after us so well.

If the truth be told we needed a rest after this fantastic rally. Until next time Jeff and June. ■



East Midlands RREC Badge and Clip



Show your affiliation with our section by displaying a beautiful enamelled club badge celebrating the formation of the section in 1969. The badge comes with a clip for easy mounting on a ¾" (19 mm) diameter badge bar or can, of course, be mounted anywhere convenient using the two pre-drilled holes.

The badge and clip costs £25.00. If you want it posting then this is an additional £3.00. Send a cheque payable to "RREC East Midlands Section" with your address to Derek Randall, 1 Brick Hill Lane, Allesley, Coventry, CV5 9BU or contact him to arrange collection at a Club event that you are both attending. ■

Visit the Taroni's home, Haselour Hall

Mary Mulholland



Sunday 6th July 2025
Picnic including Tom Telfer Award

Our Section members, Sue & Russell Taroni have again kindly invited us to picnic in the grounds of their home at Harleston.

Most of the building (except the modern west wing built after 1885) is unmistakably Tudor, but the Manor dates back to Norman times. The chimney-piece in the great hall is a splendid example of oak carving, which depicts the battle of Hastings. The family chapel is from around the 13th century. Russell has several R-R cars, together with BMC Minis!



We shall hold the Tom Telfer award here in the afternoon. This is for the best maintained post 1965 car (subsequent to Silver Cloud III). All members with an appropriate car can submit it for this award, except the winners of the prize in 2022, 2023 or 2024 The cars will be judged by one of our Section members, with a special knowledge of these cars.

We should arrive between 10.45 and 12.00 with our picnics.

Please bring some cash to support Debbie's Charlie Wicks for his Kenya trip – details by scanning the QR code below.

Please make an online booking at https://rrec-eastmids.club/booking.html or send the form to Mary Mulholland *jm.mulholland@talktalk.net*

The picnic's cost is £6 per person with children going free and the closing date is 1st July.■



Thornbridge Hall – House and Cream Tea

Nicholas Simons



Sunday 20th July 2025

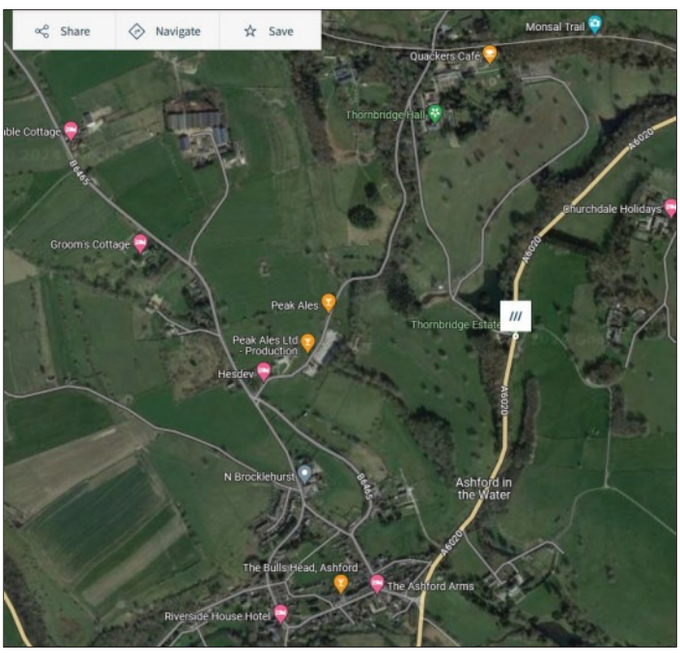
Thornbridge Hall bills itself as Britain's most quirky stately home. Whatever your view of that it is undeniably a splendid house with wonderful gardens set in Derbyshire's countryside.



Our visit will include the opportunity to tour the house, to admire the gardens and it is inclusive of a cream tea.

The Hall is extremely grateful to its visitors as every visit to Thornbridge helps to fund underprivileged children who can't afford to visit. Their cafe is an important fund raiser and visitors are expected not to use the venue for picnics.

The cost for us will be £24 per person – there are still a few places available. Provisionally, arrive between 12 noon and 1 pm for a coffee and the house tour will start at 2 pm.







The address is Ashford-in-the-Water, Baslow Road, Derbyshire (2 miles from Bakewell town centre). Please use What3words to find us: ///gather.mango.tank

We are warned that using the postcode and Google Maps will get you into trouble. *What 3 Words* is an excellent location finder that is accurate to a few metres so will even find the right door on a building. Its map is printed here to help you.

Please make an online booking at https://rrec-eastmids.club/booking.html or sent the form to Nicholas Simons (nicholas.simons@rrec-eastmids.club). Closing date 5th July 2025. ■

Newsletter Subscription

Many people prefer to read a hard-copy or like to file their collection. Any member can get a printed copy posted to them for a subscription of £5.00 for each issue to cover costs. If you pay £10.00 now you will get this issue posted to you immediately and the remaining issue for the year. This is cheaper than the cost of the ink for many home printers and the printed images are higher resolution than the emailed ones.

To subscribe, please send a cheque payable to *RREC (East Midlands Section)* to John Prentice at 141 Loughborough Road, Ruddington, Nottingham, NG11 6LQ with a note giving your name, your address and a contact 'phone number **or** send the money by BACS to Account name: *Rolls Royce Enthusiasts*, Sort Code: *20-63-25*, Account: *70086088*. The Reference should be CUSTODIAN and your surname. ■

Harrogate Weekend 1st – 4th August 2025



Jeff Dennis

Including the North of England Rally on the Sunday

Now is the time to consider booking for the Harrogate Weekend and including the 45th North of England Rally which takes place on the Sunday in the beautiful grounds of Harewood House.

The whole weekend is very flexible.

Option 1. **Make a full weekend of it.** Arrive on the Friday and stay 2 or 3 nights at the Majestic Hotel. Enjoy a pleasant Friday afternoon experiencing the delights of Harrogate and enjoy an excellent evening meal amongst friends.

On SATURDAY: Participate in the drive on Saturday seeing the stunning Yorkshire countryside plus a visit to an attraction. Alternatively travel just 10 miles to Wetherby racecourse and attend a large antiques fair. A well-known TV antiques programme may be filming on site.

Complete the day with a memorable Gala evening consisting of a "Black Tie" drinks reception, an excellent dinner followed by musical entertainment by the UK's top Elvis Presley Tribute Act. A night of nostalgia listening to some of your favourite songs and dancing the night away.

On SUNDAY: Travel to the North of England Rally and meet old friends and view over 200 elegant cars in the unsurpassed setting of Harewood House – one of the North's most impressive stately houses. Stay at the Majestic Hotel for an evening meal and travel home refreshed on Monday morning or, if you wish, leave for home on Sunday after the Rally.

Option 2. **Enjoy the Gala Dinner and the Rally.** Arrive on the Saturday, enjoy the hotel's leisure facilities or have a look around Harrogate, travel just 10 miles to Wetherby Racecourse and attend a large antiques fair, then enjoy the Gala Black Tie evening's drinks reception, dinner and entertainment. Stay in the Majestic on Saturday evening and visit the Rally on the Sunday.

Option 3. **Travel on the Sunday and enjoy the North of England Rally**

Whichever option you choose you are guaranteed some fantastic leisure time.

NORTH OF ENGLAND RALLY



The North of England Rally is the pride of the Yorkshire, East Midlands, Northern and North Eastern Sections and the envy of the rest of the Club. It not only continues to attract large numbers of our own members but attracts many members from the rest of the UK and overseas.

It is held in the beautiful grounds of Harewood House, and we are allowed to park in front of the magnificent stately home. The Rally provides many pleasures from the initial entrance down the impressive tree lined drive to the unique opportunity to study at close quarters a range of Club cars which are rarely seen elsewhere.

Your ticket allows you to visit the house and all the other attractions, such as the gardens, grounds, art galleries and much more. Many members like to bring a picnic to enjoy with friends and some like to eat in the restaurant at the rear of the house.

This year we are pleased to have a mobile food facility and an ice cream van, so members can buy food to enjoy in the car display area. Combine this with the delight of meeting old and new friends and you have the recipe for a perfect day. The North of England Rally is generally referred to as the "Friendly rally" and any member who attends for the first time will quickly appreciate that the word friendly is indeed most apt. Also on the field to entertain

members whilst they enjoy their picnics will be a roving jazz band and an accordionist.

Administration: Car number cards and entry tickets will be sent out **one week** before the event, on receipt of your completed entry form. If you require confirmation of receipt of entry, please send stamped addressed envelope with your entry form or provide an e-mail address.

CAR NUMBER CARD AND WINDSCREEN STICKER MUST BE DISPLAYED IN THE CAR WINDSCREEN ON ENTRY TO THE GROUNDS.

PLEASE NOTE this event is only open to members, their cars and their guests and subject to the Club insurance cover, and Harewood House health and safety requirements.

No refunds will be made

So why not join us and have a thoroughly enjoyable day and maybe travel home with a well deserved trophy. There are 8 trophies in total and judging is more relaxed than at the "Annual".

Rally and Hotel Booking

The booking slip for the North of England Rally is with this Newsletter, in *Spirit and Speed* and on the Club website.

N.B. the Rally pricing which is £21 per car **plus**, if you are staying at the Majestic on Saturday night, add £12 per person as a contribution to the cost of the Gala Evening.

We have 40 rooms reserved at the Majestic Hotel until the 2nd July.

If you are going to make a booking at the Majestic Hotel please indicate this on the booking slip.

The hotel has recently completed a multi-million pound renovation and is now back to its former glory and with superb leisure facilities. Our hotel costs are:

Friday & Saturday – Dinner, bed & breakfast: Double room £226, Single room £174
Sunday – Dinner, bed & breakfast: Double room £206, Single room £154.

Superior rooms are available at £60 supplement per night.



Book your accommodation direct with the hotel. Telephone No 01423 700 300 (Option 1) – ignore the recorded message - between 9:30 and 4:30. Outside office hours use Option 2 for central reservations. Mention Rolls-Royce event and the event date to benefit from the discounted rate.

If you wish to book on-line, email Jeff Dennis, Hotel Coordinator, jeff@jeffdennis.co.uk and he will send you a link.

Do not book on-line by any other booking agency as you will not be included in the Group and will not be on the table plan for the gala evening dinner.

The postcode for the hotel is HG1 2HU

After you have booked the hotel, inform Jeff Dennis, by email jeff@jeffdennis.co.uk or 07966 492333, and he will send you details of the weekend activities at the hotel two weeks before the event.

Whatever you decide to do, whether it is the full weekend, part weekend or just the Sunday Rally, you know you are going to have an enjoyable time and be made most welcome.

Remember – the North of England Rally is one of the best. Make sure you are part of it.

DO NOT DELAY – BOOK TODAY

Visit & Picnic Fairfield Lake and Smite Brook Railway – Pailton

Derek Randall



Sunday 10th August 2025



Fairfield Lake is in a beautiful privately owned estate and is the home base for the Smite Brook railway. The owner is passionate about railways and steam powered transport. A steam powered launch takes visitors on a tour of the lake (subject to favourable weather and availability of the skipper). The railway is 7¼ inch gauge and runs around the estate. The whole circuit takes around 10 minutes. The trains are operated by enthusiasts who are keen to take passengers around the beautiful countryside of the estate without extra charge. There have been no reports of strikes or problems with leaves on the line. If you have children or grandchildren, bring them along. They will love it; so will you. Please arrive between 10:30 and 11:00 am.

You can see more on https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=piPgymDC9LY.



The owner of the estate makes no charge for the facility but hopes to raise money for the Air Ambulance service. We are therefore making a charge of £9 which includes £7.50 for the charity. Children come free.

An urn and ingredients for making coffee on a DIY basis will be provided. This will be inside an awning in case of showers (heaven forbid). There will also be the use of a gas BBQ (bring your own sausages, burgers etc.). Please contribute £1 for drinks or for use of the BBQ as a contribution to the Air Ambulance.

The address is Fairfield Lake & Smite Brook Railway, Fairfield House, Coventry Road, Pailton Nr. Rugby CV23 0QA. The site is located about 800 metres west of the triangular junction in the centre of Pailton village (Warwickshire) which is on the B4027 Coventry Road.

From the A5 west of Lutterworth, take the B4027 (right turn) to Pailton. On leaving the village centre westbound on the B4027 pass a closed pub (White Lion) on the left and go through a speed limiting chicane 150 m later. Shortly the road goes downhill through some S bends and there are a few (misleading) farm entrances. Half way down this hill on the left is a narrow gateway (not very visible) and some RREC signs will be placed by the entrance.



Travelling via Coventry, take the A46 eastern bypass northwards from the A45. Take the third exit from the first roundabout signposted A428 through Binley, Binley Woods, Brandon then turn left at Bretford and after the road turns sharp to the left, take the A4455 on the right to Brinklow and Stretton under Foss. The road turns sharply to the right to Monks Kirby and becomes the B4027. The site is a few hundred yards or so on the right. Some RREC signs will be placed by the entrance

We will wrap a Union Jack round the telegraph pole which is directly opposite the site entrance to help you.

Turn into the gate and drive forward, ignoring a side turning on the left, for about 100 metres until you reach a gateway in front of you slightly to the right. Someone will guide you through from there.

Please make an online booking at https://rrec-eastmids.club/booking.html or send your booking form to Derek Randall, *derek.randall@btinternet.com*) by 31st July 2025. ■

Bank Holiday Picnic – Somersal Mill Farm



Clare Poyser

Sunday 24th August 2025

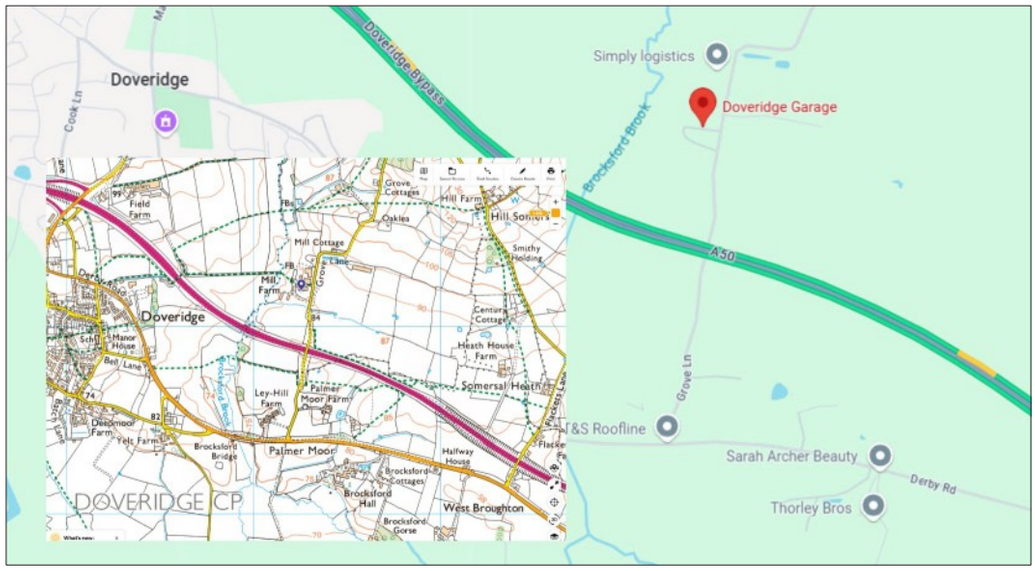
This year we are going to a different venue for our Bank Holiday picnic having had a very kind invitation from Clare and Mark Poyser to their home.

The address is Somersal Mill Farm, Grove Lane, Doveridge, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, DE6 5PB. Somewhat unusually for these days, Google does not know the house but the Postcode will get you warm and as you see Mark's garage is shown.

The main road is the A50 and the insert is from an OS map to give more context.

Arrive from 11 am with your picnic lunch – avoiding leaving it near the resident alpacas!

The cost is £6 per person with children going free.



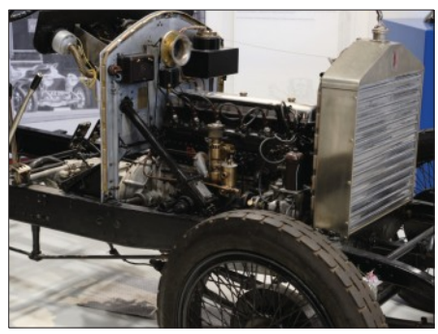
Please make an online booking at https://rrec-eastmids.club/booking.html by 10th August 2025, or send your booking form to Clare Poyser, *clarepoyser@rocketmail.com*. ■



More Wings & Wheels Shots







Pre-war Small Horsepower Workshops

Nicholas Simons



9th and 16th September 2025



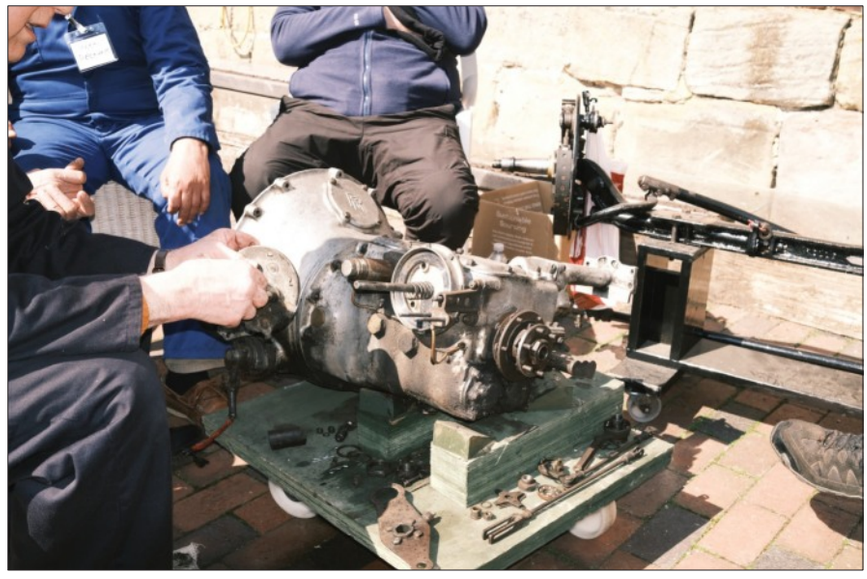
The next workshops for the Small Horsepower pre-war motorcars will take place on Tuesday 9th and 16th September 2025. The instructors are Roger Cockfield, (20/25 for twenty-five years and now a 20hp), Martin Carnell, (20/25 for fifteen years and a Silver Dawn), Nicholas Simons (20/25 for ten years, Derby and New Phantom), John Prentice (20/25) and David Howard. The team are keen to impart their knowledge and experience to other enthusiasts. All club members are welcome, but numbers are restricted so please book early to ensure your space.



The workshops will be held in Derby. The theme is hands-on experience at dismantling and re-assembling a variety of components for these motorcars. This builds up the confidence to tackle jobs oneself. These workshops are an invaluable source of gathering knowledge, experience and confidence as the more you work on or look at these cars the less daunting they become.

The ultimate objective is to encourage more people to maintain these cars and enjoy their regular use on the highway.

Components available include, a rear hub, front axle, Autovac, carburettor, distributor, clutch, water pump, brake servo, steering column and side steering tube. The Workshop also owns a full set of Dunlop steering measuring equipment. Identification of likely faults and rectification for each of the components is also covered. There is no substitute for taking a component apart yourself compared to watching someone else do it. These workshops provide an ideal opportunity to get to grips with the pleasure of owning and running a pre-war motorcar.



If you are interested in attending either of the workshops please contact Nicholas Simons (01332 760576) or email *njas@btinternet.com*

The price is £20 for each day and full details of the location and nearby places to stay will be provided on acceptance.

Please indicate your chosen day and any specific areas of design or maintenance that you want to have covered.

For insurance reasons there is a minimum age of 18 for participants.

These workshops are separate from and in addition to any RREC Seminars taking place at other locations. ■

Picnic at Heage Windmill



Martin Carnell

Sunday 21st September 2025

Arrive at Heage Windmill, post code DE56 2BH at around 11 a.m. where we will picnic and can tour the Windmill. The cost of the event is £6 per person and £3 for children which is the entry charge for the Mill.

History:

Heage Mill is a tower mill, built in the 1790s and was set working by 1798. It had four common sails. It was purchased in 1850 by brothers Thomas and Isaac Shore, who modified the mill, replacing the sails with four patent sails, and fitting a fantail.

It was damaged in a storm in February 1894, when the cap and sails were blown off; the repaired windmill had six patent sails and an ogee cap that we see now.

The mill was in use until 1919, when the miller was Thomas Isaac Shore, grandson of the earlier miller Thomas Shore. In that year the fantail was damaged in a gale, and the mill was closed down. It was sold by the Shores at an auction in 1934, and used by the new owner for storage, eventually becoming derelict. It was given listed status in 1965, as a Grade II* listed building. In 1968 it was purchased by Derbyshire County Council.

There was restoration in the early 1970s: there were new floors, cap covering, fantail and sails, but the mill was not brought to working order. The first of several Open Days took place in 1989. These made the public more aware of the mill, and in 1996 Heage Windmill Society, a charitable trust, was formed. Full restoration began, funded by grants from various sources. The fully working mill was opened to the public on 1 June 2002.

In August 2015 wet rot was found in the fantail mechanism and sails. Funds were raised to make repairs, which were completed in June 2016.





Please make an online booking at https://rrec-eastmids.club/booking.html or send your booking form to Martin Carnell, *rreccarnell@outlook.com*) by 1st September 2025. ■

Stonehurst Farm and Motor Museum

Sunday 12th October 2025

Mary Mulholland



Here is an event for the whole extended family in the South of our territory. The venue's owners write:



"Stonehurst is a working family farm, home to the Duffin family who have been farming here since Cyril and Florence Duffin took over the farm in 1951. Initially selling milk from the cows and apples from the orchard to local customers. Greg and Marilyn Duffin soon added the farm shop and opened the tearooms and Motor museum in 1991.

"The farm is now run by siblings Tom, Emily and John Duffin and their wonderful team of staff, who welcome visitors to the Farm, Farm shop and bakery, Tearooms, Motor Museum and the Michelin starred "John's House" fine dining restaurant.

"We farm over 400 acres on two main sites, Stonehurst farm in Mountsorrel and Woodside farm in Quorn. We have a herd of Aberdeen Angus Cattle, Leicester Longwool and Texel sheep, Tamworth and Gloucester Old Spot pigs. We grow organic wheat to supply our bakery and other crops including the potatoes and veg that we sell in the farm shop. The land that we farm extends from Stonehurst onto the fertile grazing and hay meadows of the Soar Valley, arable land at and around Woodside farm and grazing land at Quorn Park. We are very proud of our commitment to quality, environmental sustainability, animal welfare and customer service."



Meet at the farm, Bond Lane, Mountsorrel, Leicestershire, LE12 7AA (Google knows all about it!) at around 11 am. You can then visit the motor museum where we will have a guide or introduce the children to the farm animals.

A buffet lunch will be served at 12:30 leaving time before dusk creeps up for a short walk or more time at the Museum.

The cost, inclusive of entry and the lunch is £19 per person and £9 per child these prices reflecting a subsidy from the SAA Grant from HQ.

Please make an online booking at https://rrec-eastmids.club/booking.html or send the form to Mary Mulholland *jm.mulholland@talktalk.net* by 22nd September. ■





Section Christmas Lunch - Makeney Hall

Christina Wild



Sunday 7th December 2025

This year we are using a different venue for our Christmas Lunch - Makeney Hall. We hope that you will agree that this hotel offers a most attractive menu and that the cost is very reasonable. If you are feeling Morley Deprivation then rest assured that our AGM in February 2026 well be held at Morley Hayes!



Makeney Hall begins as a farmhouse, purchased by the original 'Mr Makeney' also known as Anthony Radford Strutt. He completely rebuilt the farmhouse into the grand Makeney Hall (Original features we still see today).

The property was passed down to the newly married George Herbert and Edith Adela Strutt. Their 21-year marriage saw the couple actively involved in their local public life, becoming huge benefactors to the local towns of Belper and Milford. They had five children and were a popular and well-loved family.

Edith sadly passed away and George remarried Mary Emily Charlotte Hind a year later. Makeney Hall underwent extensive renovations. The interior and exterior design reflected the grandeur and elegance of the Victorian era.

Mr Makeney (aka George Herbert Strutt) passed away peacefully at the age of 71. The property remained in the Strutt family and was used by the local community until it was sold to Derbyshire Council in 1936. ■





Keeping her running without bankruptcy



John Prentice

Some thoughts from the workshop

One often sees articles in the press or online commenting what exceptional value a secondhand Bentley or Rolls-Royce represents. For example a Bentley Continental GT Coupe with a warranty will currently cost you less than £15,000 (on 53 plate). Your friends and neighbours will think you must have "come into the money". However if you look at overall running costs then things are not so simple.



One problem is that the manufacturer (R-R or Bentley) prices spares in line with the original high (luxury) cost of the car and car dealers price their labour accordingly. It is a bit like the difference in price between a bouquet of flowers and a wedding or funeral bouquet. Suppliers do seem to see certain classes of customer as insensitive to price.

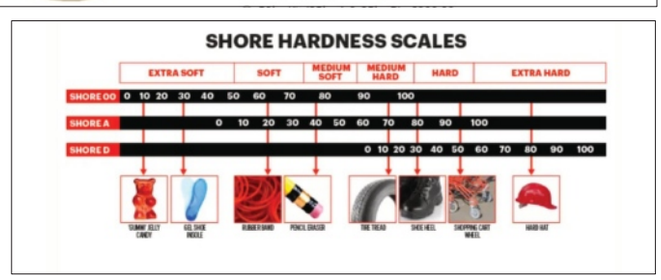
There has recently been some interesting discussion related to DIY on the Club Forum.

One thing to notice is that the volume of luxury cars produced is, in mass production terms, very low. The effect of this is that many components like ball joints are unlikely to be designed specially; they are probably standard items bought in from within the car group or even on the open market. The branded spare may be ten times the cost of the identical part in its actual manufacturer's plastic bag. The problem is identifying the generic part and, for a garage, having the confidence that not only does it look mechanically the same but it is made to the same specification. There is a lot of anecdotal evidence that non-OEM parts (e.g. components in Toyota brake systems) are much inferior to the originals whereas other parts (e.g. gaskets and O-rings) are OK from almost any supplier.

The technical knowledge of specialist suppliers like Flying Spares, Fiennes and Ristes is very helpful in sourcing spare parts. The Club has a very large archive of original drawings of parts for pre-war chassis.



Some components like elastic bushings may be hard to find but can probably the manufactured at "home". The raw material is polyurethene casting rubber. (e.g. the illustration here). This are available in various Shore hardnesses to suit different applications. The table shows you examples of applications of different hardnesses of rubber.



Complex shapes require suitable moulds but the creation of these is relatively simple using computer aided design (CAD - e.g. Autodesk Fusion 360) and a 3D Printer. The Section has been gifted a suitable printer by a member and there will be demonstrations of its capability at the Small Horsepower Workshops in September. ■

Event forms and booking note

Bookings for most Section events can be made online on the Section website:
https://rrec-eastmids.club/booking.html

We strongly recommend this way of booking it saves postage and payment by BACS is very easy for our Treasurer to track provided you use your name and the name of the event in the Reference field.

Most paper booking forms are now in a separate leaflet rather as past of the main Newsletter. In the PDF version they appear at the end of the file (i.e. after page 24 of *The Custodian*).

You can post the booking form to the organiser's address given with a cheque for payment. A separate cheque must be used for each event being booked. Confirmation of postal bookings will not normally be given unless you enclose an SAE.

Diary – Summer/Autumn 2025

Sunday 6th July 2025
Picnic at Haselour Hall. (Mary Mulholland)

Sunday 20th July 2025
Thornbridge Estate – Tour of house and cream tea. (Nicholas Simons)

Saturday 2nd August/Sunday 3rd August
Harrogate Weekend and North of England Rally. (Jeff Dennis)

Sunday 10th August 2025
Smitebrook Railway and Fairfield Lake Picnic. (Derek Randall)

Sunday 24th August 2025
Bank Holiday Picnic Picnic (Clare Poyser)

Tuesdays 9th & 16th September 2025
Pre-war Small Horsepower Workshops (Nicholas Simons)

Sunday 21st September 2025
Treasure hunt and Heage Windmill. (Martin Carnell)

Sunday 12th October 2025
Stonehurst Farm & Motor Museum. (Mary Mulholland)

Sunday 7th December 2025
Section Christmas Lunch - Christina Wild



Planning ahead

Put these events in your diary – more details of this and other events for 2025 in October's newsletter.

November (date tba)

Lunch at Duffield Golf Course – Martin Carnell

Wings and Wheels – Photo record

An online set of photo galleries of the entire Wings and Wheels event is available to Members at:
https://tinyurl.com/mrxctha2

This should remain online until October 2025. Please notice the protocol for image copyright if you want to make anything other than private use of these pictures.

From the Editor

Thank you for reading this issue.

John Prentice



The question of geographical distribution of events had been raised at the AGM. The committee has been working on improving this. We would particularly benefit from help by members in the South of the Section's territory – either as helpers, e.g. for Mary Mulholland (who you will know organises a lot of events) or to join as full members of the committee to develop the skills to serve our membership. Please contact Mike Wild or me if you are able to help.

The Custodian is distributed electronically to everyone in the East Midlands Section whose membership profile includes an email address. Wherever you live you can be a member of the Section by requesting this on the Club website. In addition, any member can subscribe for printed copies as explained overleaf.

As you will have been sent a paper copy in January there is a risk that you might fall into the trap of expecting a paper copy every quarter. **I am afraid that if you do not subscribe** then this will not happen!

A while ago we introduced an online booking system for events. This has been refined and is now a very reliable way of keeping the Treasurer and each event organiser informed about what is happening and, of course, giving you an automatic confirmation of what you have booked. If you have not used it before can I suggest you give it a try for booking your next event? ■



Welcome to new members to our Section

Alexander HARRIS, Ely; Bruce HULATT, Cirencester; Nigel DUCKMANTON, Oakham; Robin DAVISON, Sleaford. ■

Newsletter Subscription

All Section members will receive a paper copy of the January issue of *The Custodian* which includes the Agenda for the AGM and the accounts for the financial year ending 31st October.

Please note: that if you want to continue receiving paper copies in April, July and October then you need to subscribe.

Many people prefer to read a hard-copy or like to file their collection. Any UK member can get a printed copy posted to them for a subscription of £5.00 for each issue to cover costs. If you pay £15.00 in January you will get a year's printed copies. This is cheaper than the cost of the ink for many home printers and the printed images are higher resolution than the emailed ones.

To subscribe, please send a cheque payable to *RREC (East Midlands Section)* to John Prentice at 141 Loughborough Road, Ruddington, Nottingham, NG11 6LQ with a note giving your name, your address and a contact 'phone number **or** send the money by BACS to Account name: *Rolls Royce Enthusiasts*, Sort Code: *20-63-25*, Account: *70086088*. The Reference should be CUSTODIAN and your surname. ■

The Custodian is printed in Ruddington by

ADLARD
Print & Reprographics Limited

RevB3a July 2025

Haselour Hall Picnic – Form

Sunday 6th July 2025

I/We would like to attend this event

Name Address

Postcode

Telephone E-mail

No. attending Cheque £6 per person (children free of charge) payable to RREC (East Midlands Section) Or BACS

Car model Year Reg. mark

Send form to Mary Mulholland, 12 Ellis Drive, Kirby Muxloe, Leicester, LE9 2LT
Or book online at https://rrec-eastmids.club/booking.html
Closing date 1st July 2025

Thornbridge Estate and Cream Tea – Form

Sunday 20th July 2025

I/We would like to attend this event

Name Address

Postcode

Telephone E-mail

No. attending Cheque £24 per person payable to RREC (East Midlands Section) Or BACS

Car model Year Reg. mark

Send form to Nicholas Simons, 173 Blagreaves Lane, Littleover, Derby. DE23 1PW
or email to nicholas.simons@rrec-eastmids.club
Or, better, book online at https://rrec-eastmids.club/booking.html **Closing date 4th July 2025 but note numbers are limited**

Fairfield Lake & Smite Brook Railway – Form

Sunday 10th August 2025

I/We would like to attend this event

Name Address

Postcode

Telephone E-mail

No. attending Cheque £9 per person (children free of charge) payable to RREC (East Midlands Section) Or BACS

Car model Year Reg. mark

Send form to Derek Randall, 1 Brick Hill Lane, Allesley, Coventry, CV5 9BU
or email to derek.randall@rrec-eastmids.club
Or, better, book online at https://rrec-eastmids.club/booking.html **Closing date 25th July 2025**

North of England Rally – Form

Sunday 3rd August 2025

NOTE: NEW EMAIL FOR MIKE BLUNSOM

I/We would like to attend this event

Name | Address

Postcode

Telephone | E-mail

Car model | Year | Reg. mark

Body style | Coachbuilder | Chassis number

I am willing to drive my car in the parade if it is selected

Any points of interest and brief history (for commentary) - attach another page if necessary

I wish to enter for the *Graham Pearce Memorial Trophy* – give mileage to event

I am prepared to do a hour of marshalling

I will be taking part in the Saturday Tour

I will be staying at Majestic Hotel so include the entertainment supplement in my payment

No. In car | Amount (£21 per car plus £12 per person as contribution to Gala evening **if** you staying at the Majestic Hotel)

My cheque payable to RREC North of England Rally is enclosed

OR

I have made payment by BACS to Sort Code 20-35-84, A/c 80381365, ref NOR 2025

Notes: Admission is by ticket only. Rally entries need to be received by **17th July** to be included in the programme.

Send form to Mike Blunsom, 4 Acacia Drive, Sandy Lane, Bradford, West Yorks. BD15 9JY
or email michaelblunsom75@gmail.com

Bank Holiday Picnic – Somersal Mill Farm – Form

Sunday 24th August 2025

I/We would like to attend this event

Name | Address

Postcode

Telephone | E-mail

No. attending | Cheque | £6 per person (children free). Cheque payable to RREC (East Midlands Section) | Or BACS

Car model | Year | Reg. mark

Send form to Clare Poyser, Somersal Mill Farm, Grove Lane, Doveridge, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, DE6 5PB
or email to clare.poyser@rrec-eastmids.club
or, better, book online at https://rrec-eastmids.club/booking.html
Closing Date 10th August 2025.

Heage Windmill – Form

Sunday 21st September 2025

I/We would like to attend this event

Name Address

Postcode

Telephone E-mail

Car model Year Reg. mark

No. attending Cheque £6 per person (children £3) payable to RREC (East Midlands Section) Or BACS

Send this form to Martin Carnell, 22 St. Alkmunds Close Duffield, Belper, Derbyshire. DE56 4ED Closing date 1st September 2025
Or, better, book online at https://rrec-eastmids.club/booking.html

Stonehouse Farm & Motor Museum – Form

Sunday 12th October 2025

I/We would like to attend this event

Name Address

Postcode

Telephone E-mail

Adults: Children: Cheque £19 per person (children £9) payable to RREC (East Midlands Section) Or BACS

Car model Year Reg. mark

Send form to Mary Mulholland, 12 Ellis Drive, Kirby Muxloe, Leicester, LE9 2LT
Or, better, book online at https://rrec-eastmids.club/booking.html
Closing date 22nd September 2025

Christmas Lunch - Makeney Hall – Form

Sunday 7th December 2025

I/We would like to attend this event

Name _____ Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Car model _____ Year _____ Reg. mark _____

No. attending _____ Cheque _____ £40.00 per person payable to RREC (East Midlands Section) Or BACS _____

Menu choice code	
Initials	Name

Starters

- **Mushroom soup**, Crème Fraiche, Sourdough, Butter *(DFO, GFO, VeO)*
- **Chicken Liver Parfait,** Black cherry, Pistachio Dukkah, Lavosh *(GFO)*
- **Roast Beetroot**, horseradish, parmesan, Chervil *(GF, VeO)*
- **Prawn Cocktail**, Iceberg lettuce, Marie Rose sauce *(GF, DFO)*

Main Course

- **Roast turkey**, Sage & Onion stuffing, Pig in blanket, roast potatoes, roast parsnip, Pancetta sprouts, Carrots *(GFO)*
- **Belly Pork,** Sage & Onion stuffing, Pig in blanket, roast potatoes, roast parsnip, Pancetta sprouts, Carrots *(GFO)*
- **Grilled Salmons**, Cheddar & Brioche crumb, roast potatoes, roast parsnip, Carrots, Parsley sauce *(DFO, GFO)*
- **Butternut Squash Pithivier**, Mash potato, Braised red cabbage, Lincolnshire Poacher Veloute *(VeO)*

Dessert

- **Traditional Christmas pudding**, brandy sauce, Vanilla ice cream *(GFO,VeO)*
- **Chocolate brownie**, Spiced Peanut brittle *(DFO, GFO, VeO)*
- **Warm Red Onion & Walnut Tartlet**, Cashel Blue
- **White chocolate Cheesecake,** Mandarin *(DFO, VeO)*

Freshly made Tea/Coffee and mince pies

DFO = dairy-free option, GFO = gluten-free option, VeO = vegan option, GF = is gluten-free

Please explain any dietary requirements here: _____

Send form to Christina Wild, Lea Holme, Mill Lane, Holloway, Matlock, Derbys DE4 5AQ
Or, better, book online at https://rrec-eastmids.club/booking.html **Closing date 22nd November 2024**