Newsletter of East Midlands Section

An Affiliate of the Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club



THE CUSTODIAN

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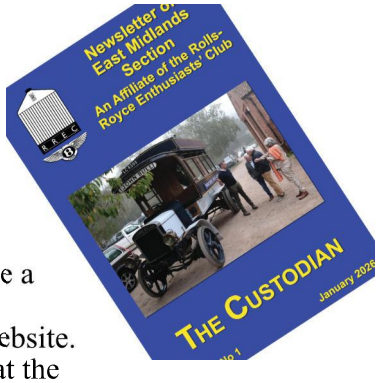
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This is your newsletter



The Custodian is your magazine about your Section of the Club. It 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, because looking at the statistics (see October's issue) showed that only a very modest percentage of members looked at the email for the magazine – and even fewer actually clicked to open it (41%/36%) **the Committee has therefore decided to supply the four issues of 2026 as printed hard copy at no charge to you.** In part this is supported by the grant made to each Section under the new Section Affiliate Agreement and in part from Section funds.

Page Key

Reports **Bookings**

Coming events **Articles**

October edition copy deadline

Copy to be received by the editor by 31st August 2026 please.

Formalities

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Liability: In attending Section events, members and their guests attend at their own risk and undertake not to seek financial redress for damage to their property from the RREC East Midlands Section, the event organisers, guides and instructors or the owner of the property where the event is held.

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

Mike Wild's King Hussein 20/25 at last Summer's Picnic at the Poyser's. You can read about its "catty complications" on page 17.

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Chairwoman's Letter

The East Midlands Section committee have been busy arranging events for you to attend. Please book as soon as you can. Late bookings leave the organisers worried that there will be insufficient numbers in attendance to cover overheads.

I must thank Martin Carnell for his work, despite stepping down from the committee, he is organising the North of England Rally as well as arranging the Chevin Golf Club lunch for the Section.

If any members have venue suggestions please let a committee member know, and it will be considered for a future event.

The Custodian contains a list of events and reports of past events so I will not repeat the reports and notifications here.



On a legal note: We have been informed that all members' guests attending the Section events need to be named to ensure the Club insurance will cover them in case of any claim. The RREC member inviting the guest must also be present at the event; if the member is not in attendance the member's guest may not attend.

When you read this our grandson Charlie will be preparing to depart (July 10th) for his 10 days work experience in Kenya. Again thanks to all the support from Section members during his fundraising efforts.

Thanks for your support and I look forward to seeing you at events in the future...

Debbie Howard

Chairwoman ■

Badgers Mount Hotel – Lunch Report

Sunday 19th April 2026



Doreen Harvey

A lovely day with excellent food and good company was enjoyed by all who came for our Spring lunch at Badgers Mount Hotel, a new venue for our Section.

We were also very lucky with the weather, which enabled us to enjoy pre-lunch drinks by the pool, which is heated, but sadly no-one was brave enough to have a dip.



Lunch was served in the bright and welcoming garden room with views across the fields and garden – a lovely ambience.

The food and service by the staff was faultless and, as requested by many of our members, we will certainly be going there again; maybe with an option to include accommodation.

Debbie Howard very kindly thanked Doreen for finding this new venue and arranging the event. ■







Visit to Great Northern Classics – Report

Nicholas Simons



Planes, Trains and Automobiles

Saturday 9th May 2026

Great Northern Classics, which is based on the site of the old Rolls-Royce light alloy foundry, held their Heritage Day on 9th May and asked us to provide a display of Rolls-Royce and Bentley cars, primarily those designed and built in Derby. They limited us to 15 cars so I had to restrict entry to cars built before 1965, which included cars up to the Silver Cloud III.



In the event, ten local members booked in, the earliest being a New Phantom, celebrating its centenary this year and the youngest being a Cloud III. We were also joined by a Phantom VI provided by Lymms, the funeral directors. It was a warm sunny day and our members enjoyed much social and technical chat, plus the use of the well stocked café on site. The public attendance was a bit disappointing, possibly due to the pricing regime chosen by GNC.



Cars attending were, in Fig 1, Nicholas Simons's New Phantom, Brian Humphries's Bentley R Type, Mike Wild's 20/25, driven by David Howard, Ian Prescott's Cloud III and Mike Wild's 20/25 ex King Hussein of Jordan. Fig 2 shows Greig Thomson's magnificent Silver Wraith by Freestone and Webb, Martin Carnell's 20/25 and Mike Wilcox's Derby Bentley by Thrupp and Maberley. Fig 3 shows the Lymm's Phantom VI. ■



Baslow Revival – Charity Picnic

Sunday 5th July 2026

Clare Poyser



We have been invited by Joe Anwyl, one of our members, to join him at an event he and his friends will be hosting.

It is a 1950s and pre-War children's charity 'revival' event at Baslow Sports Pavilion (Church Lane, Baslow, DE45 1SP) – next to Chatsworth – at 1pm on Sunday 5th July. There will be a significant number of pre-1960s cars along with post-vintage thoroughbred car enthusiasts from across the Midlands and Peak District. ■





Visit the Taroni's home, Haselour Hall

Sunday 12th July 2026
Picnic including Tom Telfer Award

Mary Mulholland



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. 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 2023, 2024 or 2025 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 do not bring any dogs to this venue.

To book please sent the form to Mary Mulholland (mary1742pc@gmail.com) or make an online booking at https://rrec-eastmids.club/booking.html.

The cost is £6 per person with children going free and the closing date is 28th June. ■



Visit to Starman's Specialists

Sunday 19th July 2026



Starman's R-R and Bentley Specialists have invited the Section to an open day on Sunday 19th July.

Arrive from 10:00. Refreshments will be provided.

Colwick Business Park, Unit 30, Private Road No.2 Nottingham, NG4 2JR

Please let Debbie Howard know if you wish to attend; this will help with numbers for catering. Closing date 5th July 2026

debbie_howard1@hotmail.com or 07890 148451 ■

Picnic at Lupin Farm



Mary Mulholland

Sunday 26th July 2026

Linda Tipper has invited us to Lupin Farm, Orgreave for a "high summer" picnic.



Please arrive from 11 am with your tables, chairs and hamper brimming with goodies.

To book please send the form to Mary Mulholland (mary1742pc@gmail.com) or make an online booking at https://rrec-eastmids.club/booking.html.

The cost is £6 per person with children going free and the closing date is 12th July.

Directions: from the North or South, take the A38 (the Derby to Lichfield Road) to Alrewas (south of Burton-on-Trent). Turn off the A38 at the junction where the A513 crosses the A38. Take the A513 West towards Kings Bromley. Lupin Farm is a farmhouse on the left at Orgreave. Post code: DE13 7DY. ■

Jeff's Memento cabinet revealed

Our loyal member Jeff Dennis is a familiar sight, with his top hat and tail-coat, at Section events. His long term contributions to the Section were remembered at the AGM lunch and he had this display of trophies with him.



Harrogate Weekend 31st July – 2nd August 2026



Martin Carnell

Including the North of England Rally on the Sunday

This is based in a great Edwardian Hotel in the Spa town of Harrogate with great charm.

I have taken over from Jeff Dennis, but Jeff has ensured we get the best deal. The price: Dinner bed and breakfast for a standard double /twin room on Friday 31st July and Saturday 1st August is **£231** and **£211** on Sunday 2nd August. Single bedded room **£179** and **£159** respectively. Upgrade to a superior room for **£60** extra.

The package includes a free welcoming coffee and nibbles on arrival so we can meet RREC members attending, normally there are 80+, all breakfast and evening meals, our own private room for evening meals and a designated area for breakfast, free car parking at the hotel, (normally there is a £20 a night car parking fee) – a great saving, and a free reception drink on gala night in a bar reserved for the RREC Members.

Gala night is going to be the same format as previous years. It is a black tie event, with first class entertainment. (**Note** there is a £12 per person supplement for the entertainment).

On Saturday there will be a drive organised by the Yorkshire section, so you can explore the scenic venues of the area or may prefer going around Harrogate visiting the famous Betty's Tea Rooms or go to the Cheese shop in the Yorkshire dales

On Sunday go to the North of England Rally at Harewood House and your rally entrance fee includes entrance to the House. About half the members stop on Sunday night at the Majestic making a full weekend of it.

Book your room at the hotel through Available Rooms - DoubleTree by Hilton Harrogate Majestic Hotel & Spa (you can type the link as https://tinyurl.com/2taxakv7) or phone the hotel Tel. 01423 700300 Option 1 (ignore the recorded message) between 9.30 and 4.30. Out of office hours select option 2 for central reservations. Mention "RREC event" and the event dates to benefit from the discounted rate.

Hope to see you there – Martin Carnell.



Just a Note:- I must thank Jeff Dennis for his 25 years of doing this event, which is a very high standard to follow.

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 open only 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 £22 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.

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

Shock! It's not too soon to book for Christmas



Christina Wild

Sunday 13th December 2026

The Section Christmas lunch will be at Makeney Hotel again this year.

You can already make your booking on online or by a paper form, so choose your seasonal meal now before the flurry of the Autumn. Christina would particularly value early booking for this event as knowing numbers makes a big difference to her and all organisers.



Visit & Picnic Fairfield Lake and Smite Brook Railway – Pailton



Derek Randall

Sunday 9th August 2026



The 2025 event was the most successful so far with 111 people enjoying trips on the miniature railway and steam-launch trips on the lake. We invited members from the TVR and Jaguar clubs and their cars added to the interest in the event. Music was provided by a local Folk Music duo.

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=yay1sJ8phxQ

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. The event raised more than £1300 for the charity last year.

An urn and ingredients for making coffee on a DIY basis will be provided. This will be under 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 west bound 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 is a narrow gateway (not very visible).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 and we will wrap a union jack round a 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 from there.

Please send your booking form to Derek Randall derek.randall@btinternet.com) or make an online booking at https://rrec-eastmids.club/booking.html by 26th July 2026. ■

Bank Holiday Picnic – Somersal Mill Farm

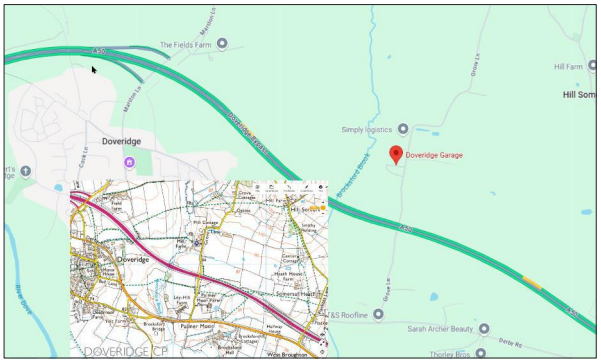


Clare Poyser

Sunday 30th August 2026

This year we are again invited for our Bank Holiday picnic to the home of Clare and Mark Poyser.

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.

The Ken Hucknall Trophy for best maintained pre-1966 car will be awarded at the event.

Please make an online booking at https://rrec-eastmids.club/booking.html by 16th August 2026, or send your booking form to Clare, *clarepoyser@rocketmail.com.* ■







EASTMIDLANDS SECTION

THREE NIGHT STAY AT BOSWORTH HALL HOTEL & SPA



SUNDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2026
TO
WEDNESDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2026

ROOM RATES START AT £297 INCLUDING BREAKFAST

SEE BELOW FOR FULL DETAILS

INDULGE WITH THE RREC

AT BOSWORTH HALL A BEAUTIFUL BUILDING DATING BACK TO NORMAN TIMES

Members are invited to join the East Midlands Section for a three-night stay at Bosworth Hall Hotel and Spa, a Grade II listed mansion dating from the 17th century that has retained many of its original features.

Set within 11 acres in the heart of the English countryside, the hotel enjoys beautifully landscaped gardens and provides an excellent setting for a relaxing few days away with friends. Gated parking has been arranged for our cars.

Arrival is on Sunday, with check-in available from 3pm. Members are invited to join us for a complimentary welcome tea or coffee with biscuits and an opportunity to meet friends, old and new.

MONDAY 7TH @ 7PM

BLACK-TIE DINNER

ENTERTAINMENT NIEL DIAMOND TRIBUTE ACT

A three-course dinner is included on Sunday evening, served at 7pm.

On Monday morning, following breakfast, a visit has been arranged to Flying Spares, where Members will be able to see the dismantling and recycling of Rolls-Royce and Bentley cars, purchase parts and view a potential restoration project.

Monday evening will feature a black-tie dinner, served at 7pm, followed by entertainment from a Neil Diamond tribute act.

Tuesday is a free day to choose from a range of local attractions, including Bosworth Battlefield, King Richard III's final resting place and nearby antique shops. A list of local attractions will be sent to Members once bookings are confirmed.

Dinner will again be served at 7pm on Tuesday evening.

Departure is on Wednesday morning, following breakfast.

The hotel spa and swimming pool are available for an additional charge, payable directly to the hotel.

ORGANISER INFORMATION

Debbie Howard, 3 Clifton Drive, Mickleover, Derby, DE3 9HS

Phone: 01332 518278 / 07890148451

Email: shadow.workshop@outlook.com

Booking information

To book accommodation, please telephone Central Reservations on 03333 231574. Quote booking reference ROLLS060926 to obtain the preferential rates arranged for this stay.

Room rates (three nights, bed and breakfast):

Double room: £297 including breakfast

Single room: £267 including breakfast

These prices apply to standard rooms. Room upgrades may be discussed at the time of booking and will incur an additional charge.

Once you have booked your hotel room, please inform the organiser.

The evening meal menu was not available at the time of publication; however, the prices are as follows:

Three-course evening meals for two people for three nights: £300

Three-course evening meals for one person for three nights: £150

A cash bar will be available.

This price includes the black-tie dinner and entertainment on Monday evening.



FLYING SPARES VISIT



ON MONDAY MORNING, FOLLOWING BREAKFAST, A VISIT HAS BEEN ARRANGED TO FLYING SPARES, WHERE MEMBERS WILL BE ABLE TO SEE THE DISMANTLING AND RECYCLING OF ROLLS-ROYCE AND BENTLEY CARS, PURCHASE PARTS AND VIEW A POTENTIAL RESTORATION PROJECT.

ATTRACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

While in town why not visit King Richard III's Memorial?



Step into one of Leicester'smost fascinating historic sites and discover the remarkable story of King Richard III - from his burial over 500 years ago to the incredible modern-day discovery of his remains. The site brings history to life with powerful storytelling, striking displays, and the exact place where the king was found, while you're there don't forget to head to the visitors centre next door. Both a 30 minute drive from the hotel



LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

1. Market Bosworth Village centre – 5 mins drive /20 min walk
Historic village centre with independent shops, cafes, and pubs in a charming setting.

2. Bosworth Marina (Ashby Canal) – 6 mins drive /40 min walk
Peaceful canal-side marina perfect for walks, picnics, and narrowboat-watching.

3. Whitemoors Antiques – 8 min drive
Antique shop packed with vintage finds, collectables, and unusual treasures.

4. Battlefield Line steam trains – 14 min drive
Heritage steam railway offering nostalgic train rides through the countryside.

5. Leicester Space Centre – 30 min drive
Interactive space attraction with planetarium shows and space exhibits.

6. Fosse Park shopping centre – 30 mins
Large retail park with high-street brands, food outlets, and entertainment.

7. Gates Garden Centre – 5 minutes
Garden centre with plants, home & garden goods, and usually a café.

8. Armstrongs Mill shopping – 30 minutes
Converted mill with a mix of shops and independent retailers.

9. Armstrongs Mill Antiques – 30 minutes
Antiques section in the mill featuring vintage furniture and curiosities.

10. Foxton Locks – 1 hour
Famous ten-lock flight on the Grand Union Canal, great for walks and photography.







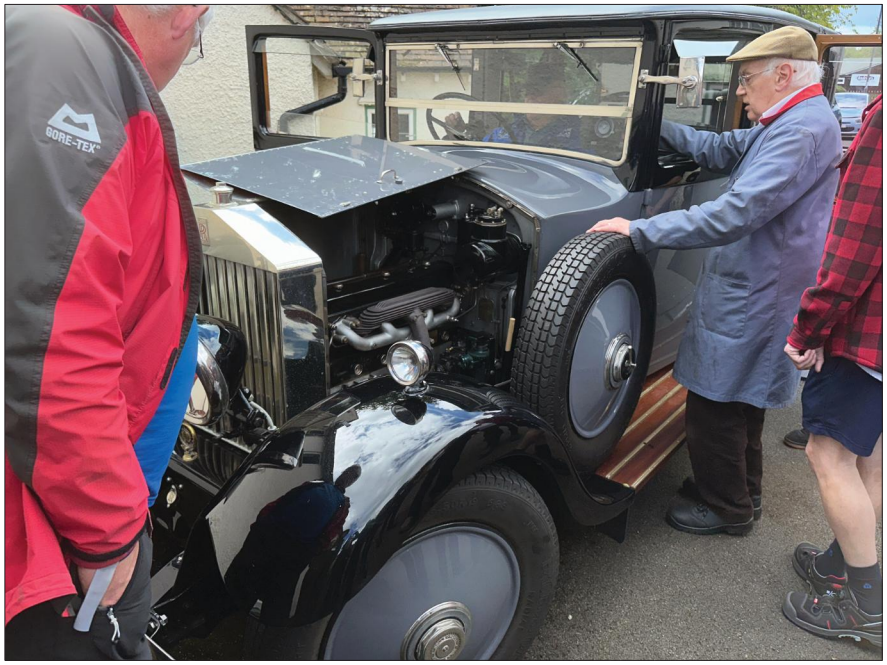
Section Pre-War Small hp Workshops



Nicholas Simons

22nd September 2026

The next workshop on the Small Horsepower pre-war motorcars will take place on Tuesday 22nd September 2026. The instructors are Roger Cockfield, (20/25 and 20hp), Martin Carnell, (20/25 and Silver Dawn), Nicholas Simons (20/25, 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 the workshop please contact Nicholas Simons on njas@btinternet.com or 01332 760576

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

Please indicate 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 Seminars that take place at The Hunt House. ■

Lunch at Chevins, Duffield Golf Club



Martin Carnell

Sunday 11th October 2026

We have booked this excellent venue for lunch again this year.

In the past our event followed the biblical storm Babet which had floods in Duffield. These had abated just in time for the lunch. While there are no meteorological guarantees for this year, the warmth of the fellowship and excellence of the lunch is certain.

The conservatory dining room overlooks the 18th hole of the golf course and the site boasts stunning views, allegedly to five counties.



Come at 12 noon for drinks and we will sit down for lunch at 1 p.m. You can choose to have two or three courses.Please see the booking form for costings. The address is Chevin Golf Club, Golf Lane, Duffield. DE56 4EE

Please send your booking form to Martin Carnell (rreccarnell@outlook.com) or make an online booking at https://rrec-eastmids.club/booking.html. ■



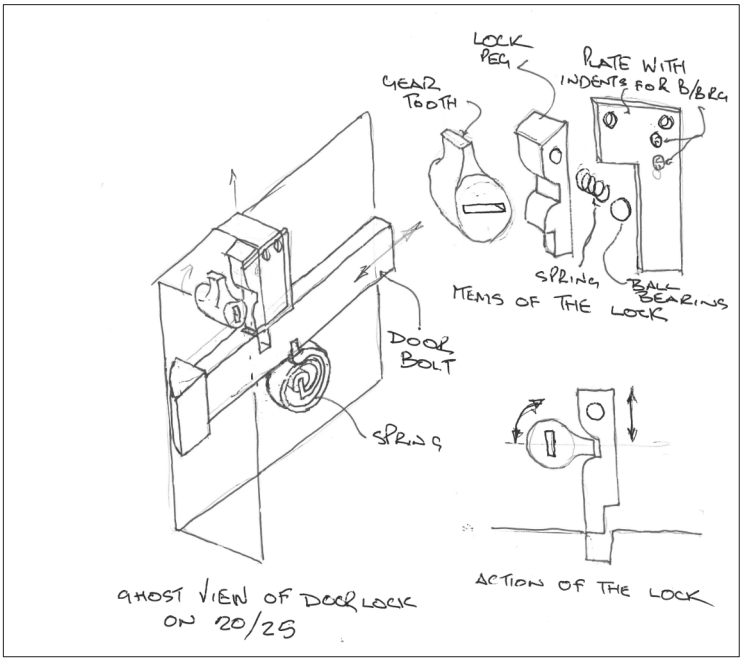
Trouble with a loose screw – or two!

Mike Wild



I was planning on attending an event with one on my 20/25s and realised that the lock mechanism on the usual entry and exit door, the front near side one, did not work. Investigation was required.

The lock assembly that is built into the door catch is a simple and robust mechanism that unless worn should not give problems. The door lock appeared to work satisfactorily and had not given problems.



I have shown the arrangement in the ghosted sketch above, as with photos it is almost impossible clearly to see the operation. Basically, the lock is a one tooth gear that rotates by the action of the door key to engage into a one tooth cog that transfers circular motion into linear motion, locating a peg into the door bolt slot and preventing the door from opening.

The locking peg is moved and held in the open or closed position by a spring-loaded ball bearing pressing into indents in a plate. Wear could prevent the gear tooth from engagement, or a broken part could prevent correct operation. On dismantling the door lock, after ninety-one years of use, I could find little or no wear and the only obstruction to correct operation was dried out grease that had formed into a solid mass.

The door lock was re-greased, refitted and removed several times in an attempt to determine the reason why the lock worked perfectly on the bench but not in the door. Clearly the door bolt was not moving into the fully closed position to align the slot with the locking peg. After some head scratching, and bearing in mind the 91 year old car had a door was held in place by a 91-year-old hinge screwed into wooden pillar, I decided to look at the door hinge to determine any wear that might cause the door to drop and prevent the door lock bolt from full engagement.



Here I discovered the hinge had little or no wear but two screws that held the bottom hinge to the door (shown with a white line pointing to them), were protruding by about two millimetres. This allowed the door to drop and prevent the door lock bolt from full location into the door catch, which prevented the locking peg to locate the slot. Access was very restricted and prevented a normal screwdriver from being used.

The only way I could access the screws was to use a small ratchet with a screw driver bit fitted. This allowed the screws to return the hinge back to secure the door. Now with the door realigned the lock worked properly and smoothly, the door was realigned and an annoying rattle had disappeared. ■



A problem with tolerances

Limits and fits on 1935 20/25 carburettor

Mike Wild



Sometimes the effect of hot engine oil on the inside of a cold rocker box cover on the cylinder head causes an oily mist and emulsion to be formed. That oily mist will be carried through the connection tube from the engine rocker box cover to the carburettor to mix with the fuel vapour and offer slight lubrication to the "top" of the engine.

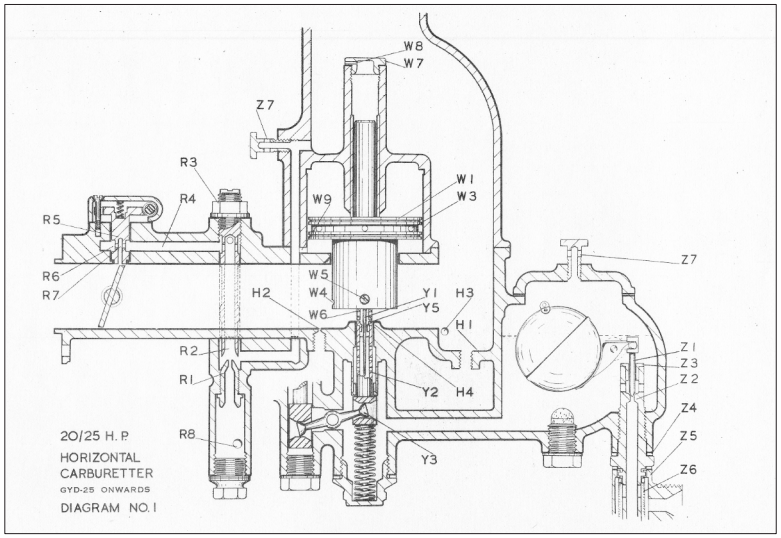


I noticed that, due to lack of attention over the years, the air passage inside the carburettor had become coated with the oily emulsion so decided that a strip down and clean was necessary. Off came to carburettor and the top (the painted bit in the photo) of the "cat's back" carburettor was removed for cleaning. A quick wash in paraffin removed the emulsion and the parts were reassembled.

Then I noticed a distinct lack of acceleration, and inability for the engine to rev clearly. Off came the carburettor again and a search was made for anything that might cause a partial jet blockage. Nothing was found, so back together went the carburettor. Still no improvement.

So once more dismantling, cleaning, inspection and rebuild were carried out, still no improvement, although I detected a slight variation in the engine's ability to pick up. After much head scratching and a night's sleep thinking about it, I thought I would just measure the outside diameter of brass piston and inside diameter of carburettor cylinder. In case you are not familiar with the later "cat's back" carburettor on the 20/25 – it is rather similar to the ubiquitous SU carburettors of the '40s, '50s and '60s.

The piston (W in Diagram 1) rises and falls in line with the suction from the engine as it accelerates to control the venturi and the opening of the main jet (Y). I do not know what the vacuum figure would be, but it surely is quite low on our low compression engines.



The piston measured 2.622" outside diameter and the internal bore of the carburettor body was 2.622". The central rod was 0.498" diameter, and the housing bore 0.500" diameter. That meant there was 0.002" (two thousand of an inch) clearance. But when I measured the difference between the outside diameter of the flange and inside diameter of the location ring that located the cat's back to the top to the carburettor body there was 0.005" (five thousand of an inch) difference.

Concluding that when assembling the top to the bottom, there was misalignment that caused friction of the piston in the bore sufficient to create the juddering effect. The carburettor was installed once more, this time with the four clamping bolts holding the "cat's back" just lighting tightened. I then started the engine and noticed juddering acceleration. But this time I tapped the side of the "cat's back" body with a small nylon hammer, and instantly the engine revved freely.

Bingo, got it! The four bolts were tightened, and a check was made to ensure nothing had moved; still okay. I shall clear the rocker box cover and carburettor intake yearly from now on.

And despite these two tales from the workshop, the 20/25 is a most practical and enjoyable model to own – that's why I have three! ■

Editor's note: Diagram 1 from R-R service documentation takes liberties with the actual layout to show the float chamber in this side view – as the photograph shows it is actually at the "back" in this view!

From Shay Gillings in Australia

An exciting "**All Clubs Welcome**" adventure is taking shape for 2028, and we would love your members to be part of it.

Following the tremendous success of our Japan cruise this year, plans are now underway for another unforgettable journey — this time aboard Australia's legendary **The Ghan**, one of the world's great rail experiences. Travelling from Adelaide to Darwin, this remarkable train journey traverses the very heart of Australia, covering almost 3,000 kilometres of breathtaking and ever-changing landscapes.

The tour is once again being coordinated by the ever-enthusiastic **Megan Catterall**. Megan's passion for Rolls-Royce and Bentley club activities in Australia is well known, and she is already hard at work creating another memorable experience for enthusiasts from around the globe.

The adventure is planned for **August 2028**, with final dates to be confirmed shortly. To ensure our group can enjoy the journey together, Megan has already secured three interconnected carriages — approximately 50 cabins — allowing plenty of opportunity for socialising, sharing stories, and enjoying the camaraderie that makes our international RR&B community so special.

We warmly extend an invitation to all international Rolls-Royce and Bentley enthusiasts who may be considering a visit to Australia. Whether you are travelling from the UK, Europe, North America, New Zealand, Asia, or elsewhere, you can be assured of a very warm Australian welcome.

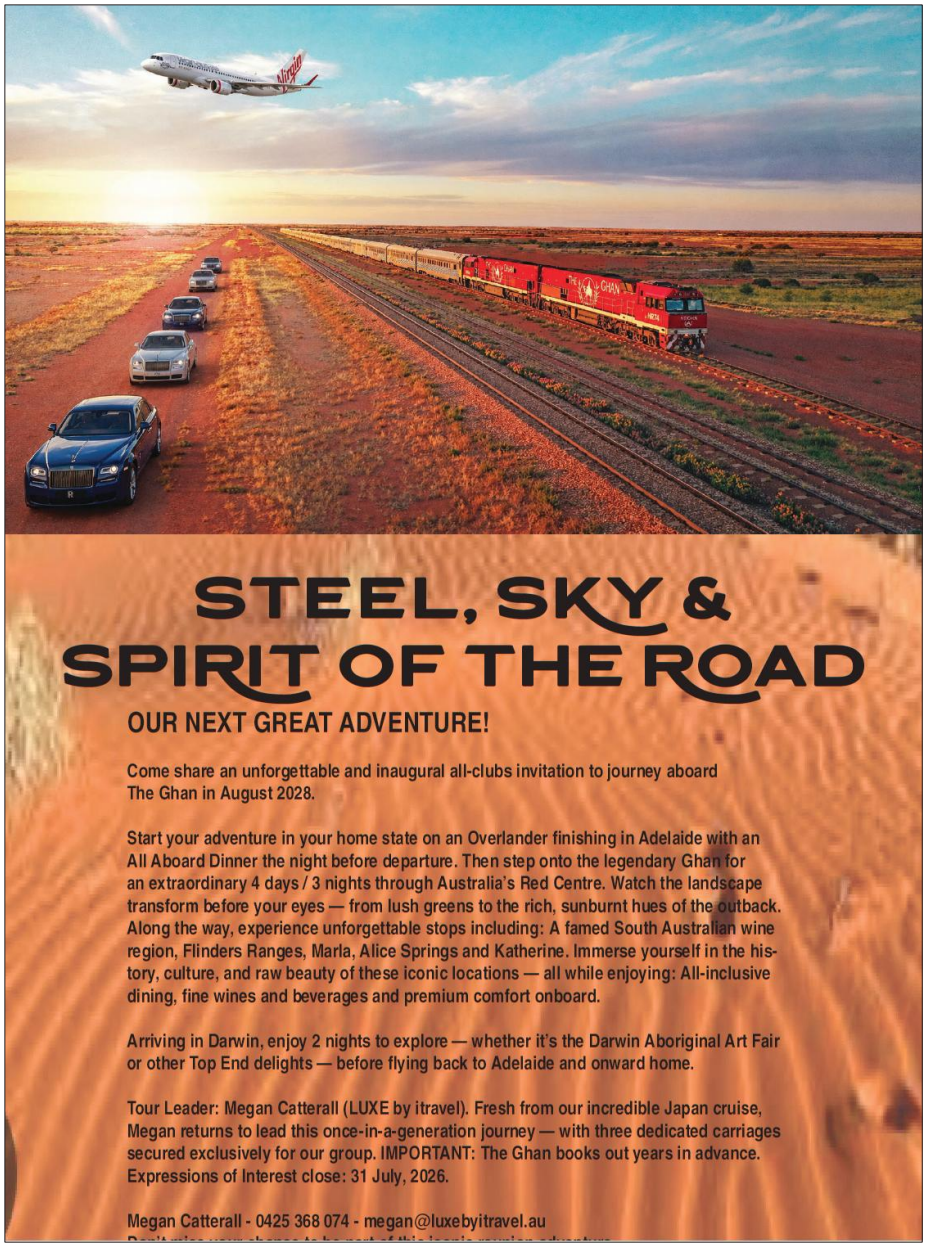
Many participants are expected to join organised "Overlander" drives from various Australian states before converging in Adelaide for the departure. While we can no longer realistically suggest shipping your motor car to Australia as enthusiasts once did in decades past, the spirit of adventure and fellowship remains very much alive.

Here is a flyer that contains Megan's contact details (megan@luxebyitravel.au) for those wishing to register their interest and receive future updates.

Best wishes,

Shay Gillings
Editor London & Derby
RROCA (NSW) Inc

From the editor: If you are interested in following the activities "down under" then this link https://fliphtml5.com/bookcase/qckhn/ takes you to an attractive online bookcase of the New South Wales publications. ■



Diary – Spring / Summer 2026

Sunday 5th July 2026 - Baslow Classic Car Show (Clare Poyser)

Sunday 12th July 2026 - Picnic at Haselour Hall (Mary Mulholland)

Sunday 19th July 2026 - Starman's Open Day (Debbie Howard)

Sunday 26th July 2026 - Picnic at Lupin Farm (Mary Mulholland)

31st July - 2nd August - Harrogate Weekend and Northern Rally at Harewood House (Martin Carnell)

Sunday 9th August 2026 - Smite Brook and Fairfield Lake picnic (Derek Randall)

30th August 2026 - Section Summer Picnic (Clare Poyser))

6th - 9th September 2026 - Autumn Break at Bosworth Hall Hotel (Debbie Howard)

22nd September 2026 - Pre-war small horsepower workshop (Nicholas Simons)



11th October 2026 - Lunch at Chevins Golf Course, Duffield (Martin Carnell)

Sunday 13h December 2026 - Section Christmas Lunch (Christina Wild)

Planning ahead

Put these events in your diary – more details of these and other events for 2026/27 in October's newsletter.

Saturday 28h November 2026 - Christmas at *Pipes in the Peaks* - lunch and a family concert (Debbie Howard)



John Prentice

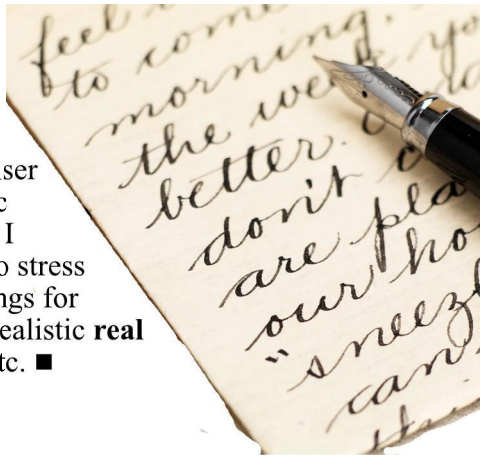


Tailpiece from the Editor

Thank you for reading this issue.

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.



Finally, a while ago we introduced an online booking system for events. This is 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 events? I would also like to stress Debbie's point that it would be really helpful if you can make your bookings for events earlier rather than waiting for the deadline given. Those dates are realistic **real deadlines** where we have to notify people about numbers, meal choices etc. ■



Welcome to new members of our Section

David COX, Belper; Michael BLOCK, Woodbridge; Jay RAJ, Milton Keynes; Mark CONNELL, Solihull; John MITCHELL, Derby; Alfred ANDERTON, Mansfield; Mark ANDERTON, Mansfield; Edward COLLIN, Nottingham; Ian FLEXER, Peterborough; Jason COLE, Lincoln; Beverly HUFF, Peterborough; Mohammed ALI, Nottingham; Theodorus FRANKE, Leicester; Ivan SANDERS, Melbourne.

Newsletter Distribution

As a one year experiment, all Section members will receive a paper copy of the all issue of *The Custodian* for 2026. If you have an email address known to the club then you will also be sent a machine readable (PDF) copy to this address each quarter.

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 than as part of the main Newsletter. In the PDF version they appear at the end of the file (i.e. after page 20 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.

The Custodian is printed in Ruddington by
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RevB1a July 2026

Haselour Hall Picnic – Form

Sunday 12th July 2026

I/We would like to attend this event. ***Please note that you should not bring any dogs with you***

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 Reg. mark Name of your guest

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 28th June 2026

Lupin Farm Picnic – Form

Sunday 26th July 2026

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 Reg. mark Name of your guest

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 12th July 2026

Fairfield Lake & Smite Brook Railway – Form

Sunday 9th August 2026

I/We would like to attend this event

Name Address

Postcode

Telephone E-mail

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

Car model Reg. mark Name of your guest

Send form to Derek Randall, 1 Brick Hill Lane, Allesley, Coventry, CV5 9BU
or email to derek.randall@btinternet.com
Or book online at https://rrec-eastmids.club/booking.html **Closing date 24th July 2026**

North of England Rally – Form

Sunday 2nd August 2026

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

No. In car | Amount (£22 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 2026

Notes: Admission is by ticket only. Rally entries need to be received by **16th July** to be included in the programme.

Send form to Mike Blunsom, 4 Acacia Drive, Sandy Lane, Bradford, West Yorks. BD15 9JY
or email mblunsom@blueyonder.co.uk

Bank Holiday Picnic – Somersal Mill Farm – Form

Sunday 30th August 2026

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 | Reg. mark | Name of your guest

Send form to Clare Poyser, Somersal Mill Farm, Grove Lane, Doveridge, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, DE6 5PB
or email to clarepoyser@rocketmail.com
or book online at https://rrec-eastmids.club/booking.html
Closing Date 16th August 2026.

Chevin's – Duffield Golf Course – Form

Sunday 11th October 2026

I/We would like to attend this event

Name | Address

Postcode

Telephone | E-mail

Car model | Reg. mark | Name of your guest

No. attending | Cheque | **2 Course** £29.50 – **3 Course** £34.50 payable to RREC (East Midlands Section) | Or BACS

Menu

Starters

- **Calamari:** Salt and pepper Calamari served with garlic and oregano mayonnaise
- **Garlic Mushrooms:** Wild mushrooms in a creamy garlic and thyme sauce served on toasted bloomer with a wild garlic pesto
- **Fishcakes:** Mixed poached fish cakes, served with dill tartar sauce and dressed mixed leaf
- **Belly pork Bites:** Slow braised belly pork served with mustard mayonnaise

Menu choice code	
Initials	Name

Main Course

- **Sirloin:** Overnight roasted Sirloin of beef (served Pink)
- **Chicken Leg:** Roasted chicken leg with crispy skin
- **Pork Loin:** Roasted pork loin with honey and garlic glaze, Crackling Tuile
- **Gammon:** Slow roasted and glazed gammon
- **Vegetarian Roast:** Quorn roasted chicken alternative with all the trimmings

Roast meals are served with caramelised onion stuffing, maple and thyme roasted carrots and parsnips; fluffy garlic and rosemary roasties; Yorkshire pudding with beef and wine gravy.

Dessert

- Raspberry Pavlova
- Mango and passion fruit Cheesecake
- Salted Caramel mousse
- Sticky Toffee pudding

Tea and Coffee

Please explain any dietary requirements here:

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

Closing date 27th September 2026

Christmas Lunch - Makeney Hall – Form

Sunday 13th December 2026

I/We would like to attend this event

Name | Address | Postcode | Telephone | E-mail | Car model | Reg. mark | Name of your guest | No. attending | Cheque | £42.00 per person payable to RREC (East Midlands Section) | Or BACS

Complimentary Wine/Juice

Menu choice code	
Initials	Name

Starters

- Parsnip **Soup**, Hot Honey, Cheddar Croute (V) (VE,GF,DF Option Available)
- Ham Hock & Chicken **Terrine**, Onion Marmalade, Brioche (GF & DF Option Available on request)
- Smoked **Salmon**, Caper & lemon Roulade, Celeriac Remoulade (GF & DF Option Available on request)

Main Course

- **Turkey**, Sage & Onion Stuffing, Roasted Parsnip & Carrot, Roast Potatoes, Pancetta Sprouts, Pig in Blanket, Yorkshire Pudding, Pan Gravy. (GF)(DF Option Available on request)
- **Grilled Salmon**, Cheddar Crumb, Garlic & Herb Potatoes, Maple Glazed Carrot (GF & DF Option Available on request)
- Beetroot & Butternut Squash **Wellington**, Braised Red Cabbage, Red Pepper Coulis (GF & DF Option Available on request)

Dessert

- Chocolate **Brownie**, Peanut Praline, Raspberry (GF & DF Option Available on request)
- Traditional **Christmas Pudding**, Brandy Sauce, Vanilla Ice Cream (GF & DF Option Available on request)
- Spiced Orange & White Chocolate **Cheesecake**, Winter Berries (GF & DF Option Available on request)

Freshly made Tea/Coffee and mince pies

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 28th November 2026**

Event forms and booking note

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

Members are welcome to bring guests to events but for insurance purposes we need their name(s) with the booking.

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.

You can email a copy/scan of the form and pay by BACS if you prefer. Account name: *Rolls Royce Enthusiasts*, Sort Code: *20-63-25*, Account: *70086088*. The Reference should be the event name and your surname.