



# Northumbria Newsletter



April 2009

## Greetings to everyone in Northumbria Group

### Northumbria Update

You should all have received the 2009 Northumbria 'Events List Card' by post recently. If you have not, let me know and I'll get one to you. This shows the locations and dates of the Wednesday meetings over the summer and some of the major shows we'll be attending.

This newsletter is a little early but you need to know the **meeting on 1<sup>st</sup>. April is at 'The Three Horse Shoes on A6076 Lanchester to Annfield Plain Rd (DH7 0QS), not The Mill, Knitsley.** Apologies for this but between printing the card and now it was discovered that The Mill is closing at the end of March.

**Track Day** date is **18<sup>th</sup> April**. Geoff will send a 'round robin' with details of times and meeting-up point to all those who have expressed an interest in taking part in this event. For spectators, we are meeting up at 11.00am on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> at the Durham Services on the A1(M), for the run to Elvington to cheer the drivers round. The run should take about 90 minutes to reach **Elvington near York**. Its a good first summer run for the TR, or come in the Eurobox, and have an afternoon watching classics on the track.

**Drive It Day, is on 26<sup>th</sup>. April**, and we have identified a turn up and park event at **Hartlepool Historic Quay**. Its organised by the Northern Vintage Transport Association and is a chance to have a short Sunday run that will shake out the cobwebs from the car at the start of the season. **Meet up at Durham Services on A1(M), at 10.30.am. Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>.** Other TR groups and Classic Car Clubs will be at Hartlepool and it is an ideal place to park up alongside these, have a break for lunch or just an ice cream; have a look at the new Marina and boats and go home feeling satisfied that you flew the flag for British Cars. Its on from 10.00am. to 4.00pm. Let me know if you're going so that we don't leave the services without you if you're delayed.

**April 15<sup>th</sup>.** is a normal meeting at **The Bay Horse at Stamfordham. (NE18 0PB).**

I now have the application form for the tickets for **Thirlestane Castle on 7<sup>th</sup>.June**. I need to return this with a list of the cars wishing to attend so that I can get you a car entry pass to the display ground. Without this you'll be stuck in the public car park. If you wish to go please let me have your car Registration No and model. Its also free this way and you may find a bargain at the autojumble. Check out Thirlestane at, (<http://www.thirlestanecastle.co.uk/>)

I also have application forms for **Newby on 19<sup>th</sup> July**. If you want to attend Newby and you can't get to a Wednesday meeting to collect a form, let me know and I'll get one to you. Newby is £3 which will get a TR and two passengers parked in the display ground and access to the extensive gardens. (Its a famous Country Mansion House with Landscaped Estate) Sunday outings don't come that cheap very often. I am anxious to return the completed forms for Newby as soon as possible so that the organisers get a clear picture of the space we need for TRs so please contact me early then I can get the request for tickets in quickly and obtain any extra forms that we need. Check out Newby at( <http://www.newbyhall.co.uk/>)

## Coming Events

April 1<sup>st</sup>. **The Three Horse Shoes, on A6076 Lanchester to Annfield Plain Rd (DH7 0QS).**

April 15<sup>th</sup>. Bay Horse, (Stamfordham, B6324), (NE18 0PB).

April 18<sup>th</sup>. Track Day, Elvington, (Saturday Convoy Run, meet 11.00am. Durham Services.)

April 26<sup>th</sup>. Drive It Day run to Hartlepool Historic Quay. (Meet 10.30am. Durham Services)

May 6<sup>th</sup>. Thinford Arms. (A167, South of Durham), (DH6 5JZ).

May 10<sup>th</sup>. Harewood Hill Climb (See TR Action Competition Section)

May 15/17<sup>th</sup>. North Yorks. Triumph Weekend at Runswick Bay. (<http://www.nytw.org.uk>)

May 20<sup>th</sup>. The Robin Hood. (Military Road), (NE18 0LL).

June 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Red Lion (West Boldon)

June 7<sup>th</sup>. Thirlestane Castle Show, (Name, Reg. No. and model to John Scarr for ticket)

**July 19<sup>th</sup>. Newby Hall Show. Ticket Application Forms now available.**

## Stoneleigh 8th. March.



Several car loads of members attended the annual 'Spares Day' and most came home with something, proving that Classic car enthusiasts are good for getting the economy moving in these trying times. Original panels for rebuilding are getting more scarce and more expensive every year but service items are still very reasonable compared to a Eurobox. The 'cars for sale' section seemed bigger than previously but the prices were as well. Perhaps that was what brought the smile to a few of the faces we met on the way round.

## Registrar's Records

Checking with the registrar at the TR Register recently it was realised that some TRs in our area are not on their records. Whether through computerisation of records or changing staff, or for whatever reason, some TRs do not feature in their lists. The chassis numbers and build details are a great help in piecing together the manufacturing practices at Standard Triumph and the Registrars can help people to identify a car's place in the production run where its history has been lost by comparing with other cars and these build details. If you think you may not have sent in your details, please send a message to the Registrar for your model and let him know what you have.

# Motoring News Items on the Political Rumour Mill

**New speed limits on country roads**, are part of measures being considered by the Government to reduce accidents. Statistics apparently show a higher death rate on country roads and the response is a proposal to reduce the current 60mph. limit to 50mph. in the belief that reduced speed limits brings reduced accident rates. The new limit would not be indicated by new signs. The existing black band on a white circle would simply be re-designated to mark the beginning of the 50mph rather than the 60mph at present. A number of voices have advocated caution on this proposal suggesting the desired result is not as certain as believed. Lack of signage would lead to confusion, invitingly straight clear open roads held at 50mph would lead to frustration, and a lack of confidence in the suitability of the speed limits to suit road conditions. These are some of the comments being made.

**Scrappage**, is the term being used to describe a scheme favoured by Lord Mandelson whereby cars over nine years old could be traded in to designated centres, and a £2000 voucher received to trade in against a new car. The Government belief is that this would help to get the motor industry moving again and is a parallel to schemes in Germany and France where the Governments have similar ideas. The FBHVC have pointed out that some cars are required into the future to represent our heritage and the environmental aspects of manufacturing new as against continued use of old, don't add up. Another downside is that in Germany and France 60-70% of new cars purchased are manufactured by the home industry whereas in Britain some commentators claim the figure is less than 20%. Any Government vouchers would therefore be mainly supporting foreign motor manufacturing, and doing very little to reduce unemployment at home.

## Archive Items

With the sale price of TR 5s climbing ever higher recently, its interesting to look back on its price at the time of production. A price list of October 1967 shows a total price of £1212 for the 'Soft Top' and £1255 for the 'Hard Top.'

**TRIUMPH TR5**

	Ex-Works Price		P.T.		Ex-Works Total Price	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Perforated Expanded Vinyl Trim	985	0 0	227	8 11	1212	8 11
Soft Top model	1020	0 0	235	9 4	1255	9 4
Hard Top Model						

(Tyre specification to choice, Dunlop S.P.41 or Michelin XAS)

**Optional Extras:**

Surrey Top Folding Canopy	7	10 0	1	14 4	9	4 4
Overdrive	47	10 0	10	17 8	58	7 8
Wire Wheels (60 Spoke)	30	0 0	6	17 6	36	17 6
Tonneau Cover	10	7 6	2	7 7	12	15 1

**TRIUMPH HERALD 1200 SALOON**

Vinyl Leathercloth Trim	509	0 0	118	7 3	627	7 3
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**Optional Extras:**

Heater	10	0 0	2	5 10	12	5 10
Front Disc Brakes	12	0 0	2	15 0	14	

**TRIUMPH HERALD 13/60 SALOON**

Expanded Vinyl Trim	568	0 0	131	17 8	699	
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**Optional Extras:**

Skylight Roof	20	0 0	4	11 8	24	
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**TRIUMPH HERALD 13/60 CONVERTIBLE**

Expanded Vinyl Trim	613	0 0	142	3 11	755	
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**Optional Extras:**

Tonneau Cover	9	2 6	2	1 10	11	
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**TRIUMPH HERALD 13/60 ESTATE CAR**

Expanded Vinyl Trim	628	0 0	145	12 8	773	
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HOME MARKET 12 OCT. 1967

All prices of extras shown are for Factory-fitted equipment

Asking prices for well restored examples now seem to be around twenty times the original sale price, and the £43 difference between the models, representing the glass and metal hard top, may even have been a better investment if recent E Bay prices for the back light and roof are to be believed.

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Before the media capitalise too much this year in telling everyone that fifty years ago the 'mini' was born, lets remember that exactly 50 years ago in April 1959, the Triumph Herald was introduced, in a coupe form to start with.

## For Sale

1981, TR 7 Sprint convertible, extensively re-built and refurbished, photographic records, 20,000 mile engine, bills for £5000 plus. Newly reconditioned gearbox, new prop. shaft, year's MOT, six months Tax, one owner 20 years.

£2450 ono.

Tel 07981 743 527 or

E-mail [sjtrseven@hotmail.com](mailto:sjtrseven@hotmail.com)



## Internet Motoring Entertainment

If you click onto this link and ignore the distracting adverts, there are a number of items on motoring topics.

[http://cars.uk.msn.com/News/car\\_news\\_article.aspx?cp-documentid=15050648](http://cars.uk.msn.com/News/car_news_article.aspx?cp-documentid=15050648)

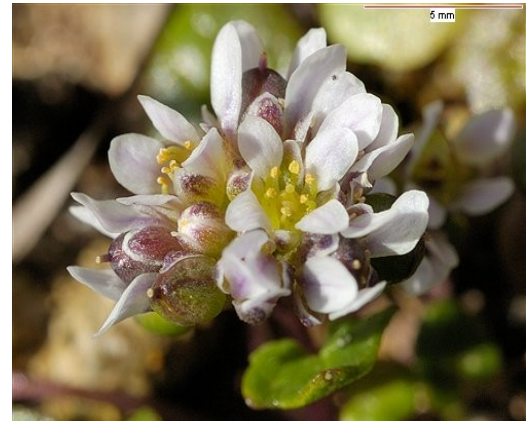
## European TR Meeting 2009

Cleveland Group have a contingent going to Germany for the annual European Meeting, which is at Rust from 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> September. Two of their cars are driver only at present and they have sent out an invitation to Northumbria members that if you wish to join up and share costs in these cars, it would make an economical opportunity to try this prestigious event. Click link for details,( <http://www.triumph-ig.de/Euromeeting/trtreffen.html>) Contact Cleveland Group Leader, Graham Lowe, E-mail address in TR Action if you are interested.

## Tailpiece

Hooray for the end of salt ! Well at least on the roads for this winter. You probably thought the only thing salt was good for, was breeding `tin worms`. But news from the frontier of botany now tells us otherwise.

Apparently the evidence of salting shows up every spring along many roadsides in Britain when tiny white flowers appear. Since the 1970s the plant has been spreading from a foothold in Cornwall to much of the rest of the road system as a result of the winter salting. It is a seaside plant called Danish scurvygrass, or `Cochlearia danica` to give it its posh name. It is also a member of the cabbage family. Could this become one of our `five a day`?



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